Public Choice in Theory and Practice			
Course Number	00LE62S-LAS-GO0025	Teaching Period	Block II
Study Area(s)	Governance, Electives	Credit Points	6 ECTS
Module(s) (StuPo 2012)	Advanced Governance I or II; Specialization Option: Economics	Module(s) (StuPo 2015)	Advanced Governance I or II; Specialization Option: Governance I or II
Open to Students	Year(s) 3, 4	Max. Enrollment	20
Prerequisites	Introduction to Governance; Economics		
Instructor(s)	Matthew Bonick and Bianca Blum (matthew.bonick@vwl.uni-freiburg.de)		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 12.12.-17.02.: Mon, 14-16h, AU 01036a Tue, 14-18h, KG 1021 Thu, 14-16h, KG 1019		
Course Description	Public Choice is the economic study of non-market decision-making, or the application of economics to political science. It therefore combines economic theory and approach with an interest in political and social processes. Students will learn about and be able to apply the behavioral model of *homo economicus* to political analysis and understand the strengths and weaknesses of its application. By the end the course they will have gained a foundation in public choice theory both theoretically and empirically. They will be asked to apply public choice theory to current events. The course will combine seminars, presentations, and computer simulations of experiments. The preliminary plan of the course by week is the following: Week 1: Introduction into public choice theory, game theory, and difference between public choice approach and welfare economics Week 2: Public choice explanation of social contract Week 3: Public choice explanation of voting rules and behavior Weeks 4-5: Discussion of problems with delegated power Week 6: Political power and institutions, linkages between political and economic institutions Week 7: Problems of collective action Week 8: Conclusion The form of assessment in this course will be announced by the instructor at the beginning of the course and is likely to include graded presentations and analytical papers.		
Remarks	none		