Political Economy

Course coordinator: Roberto Ricciuti
Course lecturers: Roberto Ricciuti (roberto.ricciuti@univr.it), Emanuele Bracco (emanuele.bracco@univr.it) and Marcella Veronesi (marcella.veronesi@univr.it)

Module A – 8 hours (Roberto Ricciuti)
This module introduces state capacity a topic of current research in political economy. In particular, it will deal with:

1. Development clusters
2. Fiscal capacity
3. Legal capacity
4. Political violence
The main reference is Besley and Persson, Pillars of Prosperity (chapters 1-4).

Module B – 6 hours (Emanuele Bracco)
This module provides further theoretical underpinning to part C, looking in particular at electoral and political systems, and accountability.


Module C – 6 hours (Marcella Veronesi)
This module introduces students to methods frequently used in political economy to infer causality. A close understanding of these methods is central to current empirical work in political economy. This module will focus on both experimental and non-experimental methods with a focus on hands-on implementation of methods using actual data. Students will be expected to read the assigned papers, discuss the basic issues, the methods used, and reproduce the results. There is no single textbook on which lectures are based. Specific readings will be suggested during the course such as


Grades will be calculated based upon the following criteria:

20% Assignment on case studies

80% Essay. It could be either a survey of the literature (4000 words) or (preferably) an empirical application on a relevant economic issue (3000 words).