

## **Public Choice**

Visiting professor Christian Bjørnskov

### **I. Contents**

The public choice school contributes to our understanding of economic policy, the role of the state, and the development of democracy and market institutions. This course takes up a number of topics in public choice which provide either another angle or new insights into standard issues in the social sciences.

### **II. Literature**

The readings consist of chapters from Dennis Mueller, *Public Choice III* (Cambridge University Press). At the end of the course, the students will go through 3-4 papers from the most recent conference of the European Public Choice Society. The students and the lecturer will jointly choose these papers that have to be representative of recent developments in public choice.

### **III. Preliminary lecture plan**

#### **Part 1           Origins of the State**

1. Allocative efficiency  
Mueller, ch. 2

2. Redistribution  
Mueller, ch. 3

#### **Part 2           Public choice in democracy**

3. Voting rules and majority rule  
Mueller, ch. 4, ch. 5, p. 79-112

4. Majority rule and alternatives  
Mueller, ch. 5, p. 112-127, ch. 7

5. Exit and voice  
Mueller, ch. 9

6. Two-party competition and the paradox of voting  
Mueller, ch. 11, ch. 14

#### **Part 3           Failures**

7. Rent-seeking  
Mueller, ch. 15

8. Bureaucracy  
Mueller, ch. 16

9. Dictatorship  
Mueller, ch. 18

**Part 4      Special interests**

10. Interest groups  
Mueller, ch. 20

11. The size of government  
Mueller, ch. 21

**Part 5      Special topics**

12. Government size and economic performance  
Mueller, ch. 22

13. A just social contract + EPCS  
Mueller, ch. 25 and conference paper

14. Liberal rights + EPCS  
Mueller, ch. 27 and conference paper

15. EPCS and summary  
Conference papers

**IV. Literature**

Mueller, Dennis C. 2003. *Public Choice III*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.  
Three to four conference papers chosen by the students, supervised by the lecturer, from the 2010 conference of the European Public Choice Society, Izmir, April 8-11.