Theory of Social Policy

Module coordinator: holder of the Chair of Economic Order and Social Policy
Module offered by: Faculty of Business Management and Economics

ECTS: 5
Method of grading: numerical grade
Duration: 1 semester
Module level: graduate
Other prerequisites: --

Contents

The lecture "Theorie der Sozialpolitik" ("Theory of Social Policy") discusses the concept of social security and the concept of social justice. In the first part of the course, which will deal with social security, students will acquire a general overview of possible market failures in an insurance market. One chapter will then each be devoted to the introduction and characterisation of the three main branches of social insurance (pension, health and unemployment insurance). Subsequently, different options for a reform of the individual branches of social insurance will be introduced and evaluated in terms of efficiency. In the second part of the course, which will deal with social justice, different definitions of the concept of justice will be discussed in more detail. Here, the main focus will be on identifying and critically examining different criteria for the measurement of inequality in a society. In addition, efficiency-oriented justifications for redistributive policies by the government will be addressed and discussed with students.

Intended learning outcomes

The graduate student has acquired following skills and abilities after completion of the module:
(i) Detailed knowledge of institutional foundations of the German social security system
(ii) Mechanics of an insurance market
(iii) Emergence and problems of adverse selection and moral hazard in the context of social insurances
(iv) Measurement and interpretation of inequality measures, particularly of income inequality
(v) Mechanics and welfare effects of state redistribution
(vi) The impact of state redistribution on macroeconomic variables

Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)

V + Ü (no information on SWS (weekly contact hours) and course language available)

Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)

a) written examination (approx. 60 to 90 minutes) or b) written examination (questions concerning mathematical methodology; approx. 120 minutes) or c) term paper (approx. 15 pages) or d) case studies, project report or similar (approx. 10 pages) and presentation (approx. 15 minutes), weighted 2:1 or e) presentation (approx. 30 to 45 minutes), presentations can be held by one candidate each or in groups

Allocation of places

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Additional information

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Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)

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Module appears in

Master's degree (1 major) Economathematics (2011)
Master’s degree (1 major) Business Management (2011)
Master's degree (1 major) Economics (2011)
Master's degree (1 major) China Business and Economics (2014)
Master's degree (1 major) China Business and Economics (2012)
Master's degree (1 major) Chinese and Economics (2014)
Master's degree (1 major) Chinese and Economics (2012)