

Seminar Public Economics 2, Winter Term 2017/18

Prof. Buettner/Prof. Rincke/Prof. Wrede

Course Description:

During the seminar, participants will discuss a broad range of topics. A first set of topics address questions related to **housing, land use regulation, and land use pattern** (Prof. Wrede). A second set relates to **recruitment, incentives and service delivery in the public sector** (Prof. Rincke). Finally, the seminar also deals with **empirical research on taxes, subsidies and transfers as instruments of public policy** (Prof. Büttner). The list of topics below provides more details, including references and brief comments on the research questions covered in the respective literature.

The seminar has two consecutive parts. **In the first part, students write a thesis (15 pages)** under the guidance of their advisor. In an introductory session, students learn about the principles of scientific work and the scope of analysis that is expected. The thesis elaborates on the literature (see the list of topics for the main article(s) to be covered). Students are expected to search for additional literature and then work independently on their topic. Advisors provide close guidance during this process. **The second part consists of a two-day seminar (December 14th/15th) of students' presentations.** Before preparing their presentations, supervisors will provide students with detailed feedback on their thesis.

Organisational details and grading:

- The seminar is jointly organized by the chairs of Prof. Buettner, Prof. Rincke, and Prof. Wrede.
- Students who want to participate should express their interest by submitting a participation form (see webpage of Prof. Rincke's chair) to david.hardt@fau.de until **July 17th, 2017**.
- Please indicate your preferred topics. Preference will be given to the earliest submissions.
- After being assigned to a specific topic, students can repeal their participation within a week's time. After that deadline has passed, participation in the seminar is mandatory. Students not handing in a thesis in time will be graded a 5.0.
- Please note that the maximum number of participants is 10 students.
- Additional information on how to write a seminar paper, how to search for literature, etc. will be provided in an introductory session.
- Grading: The overall grade will reflect the quality of the thesis (50%), the presentation in the seminar (30%), and the student's contributions to the discussion following each of the presentations (20%).



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