

Political Economy A | POP88174

Year	1
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	10 hours of lectures
Pre-requisite	Nil
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Professor Sharyn O'Halloran
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Module Outline

Module Learning Aims:

1. Foundational Understanding:
 - Define primary political economy concepts
 - Chart its historical impact on global economics
2. Theoretical Analysis:
 - Develop a toolkit emphasising social choice, median voter, and gridlock theories
 - Conduct stakeholder analyses, gauging actors' interests and influence
 - Explore the drivers behind institutional design and its policy implications
3. Contemporary Issues and Application:
 - Examine interest group lobbying and its policy effects
 - Investigate trade's political and economic aspects
 - Analyse global financial regulation, balancing risk and growth
4. Critical Evaluation:
 - Assess political economy theories, noting strengths and limitations
 - Critique policy decisions using the course's analytical tools
 - Engage in class discussions, applying the tools developed to the case analysis

Module Content:

- I. A. Introduction: The Political Economy Toolkit
- II. Political Economy of Interest Groups and Lobbying: focusing on lobbying, voting, and legislative bargaining in domestic and international settings.
- III. Political Economy of Market Regulation: focusing on financial regulation, antitrust and intellectual property.
- IV. The Political Economy of International Trade: focusing on issues such as market access, WTO compliance, international labour standards, and worker's rights.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will learn strategies and analytical tools for policy managers and analysts as they confront economic, political, legal, and global challenges. Cases and readings emphasise policymakers' decision-making as they navigate multiple constituencies.

Assessment

Participation 10%

Presentation 30%

Essay 60%

Recommended Reading List

1. Baron, David: *Business and its Environment* 7th edition (BIE)
2. Shepsle, Kenneth, *Analyzing Politics* 2nd edition, (Shepsle)
3. Olson, Mancur. *The Logic of Collective Action* (Olson)
4. Ostrom, Elinor, *Governing the Commons* (Ostrom)
5. Stiglitz, Joseph, *The Economics of the Public Sector* (Stiglitz)
6. Merlo, Anthony, *Political Economy and Political Analysis* (Merlo)

Additional materials, including case material and discussion prompts, will be posted on the class Blackboard site.