

Junior Sophister 2008-09

EC3060 ECONOMICS OF POLICY ISSUES: MODULE B

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Course Description

The first part of this module will mainly analyze the relationship between social justice and social welfare and the link between institutions and policy outcomes. In particular, it will focus on voting behaviour and the impact of forms of government and electoral rules on redistribution and government expenditure. This will be followed by an analysis of political incentives to accommodate special interest policies, with a focus on rent-seeking behaviour. The second part of the module will examine the economics of energy policy issues covering electricity market liberalisation, renewable energy policy, conventional electricity generation and climate change policy

Primary Reading

- (i) The core book is Arye L. Hillman, *Public Finance and Public Policy: Responsibilities and Limitations of Government*, Cambridge University Press 2003.
- (ii) Journal articles in the area

Course Outline

- (i) Social Justice
- (ii) Politics and Redistribution
- (iii) Taxation
- (iv) Size of Government
- (v) Electricity Markets
- (vi) Electricity Generation

Assessment and Classes

Students are assessed on the basis of one assignment and an end-of-year examination. The assignment will account for 20% of the total assessment for this module, the summer examination accounting for the remaining 80%.

Students are strongly encouraged to attend *all* lectures and classes, where material in the core book will be put in context and explained and test/examination requirements outlined in some detail.

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