



# Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

## Political Economy A

Module Code: POP88174

Module Name: Political Economy A

- **ECTS Weighting:** 5
- **Semester/Term Taught:** Semester 2
- **Contact Hours:** 10 hours of lectures
- **Module Personnel:** Professor Sharyn O'Halloran

### Module Learning Aims:

By the end of this course, students will understand the core theories and concepts of political economy and effectively apply them to real-world challenges to contribute meaningfully to public policy analysis in their field.

#### 1. Foundational Understanding:

- Define primary political economy concepts.
- Chart its historical impact on global economics.

#### 2. Theoretical Analysis:

- Develop a toolkit emphasizing 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.
- Analyze 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.

#### 5. Research and Presentation Skills:

- Research political economy topics, utilizing varied sources.
- Present findings coherently, merging theory and evidence.
- Connect insights from across political economy to address intricate issues.

## 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 labor standards, and workers' rights.
- V. STUDENT PRESENTATION**

## 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 emphasize policymakers decision-making as they navigate multiple constituencies.

## Reading List

1. Baron, David: *Business and its Environment* 7<sup>th</sup> edition (BIE)
2. Shepsle, Kenneth, *Analyzing Politics* 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Policy Analysis*

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

## Module Co-Requisite

### Assessment Details

Assignments	30%
Presentation	10%
Final Paper	60%

## Module Website

Blackboard