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 7th edition (BIE)*
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)*

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

Module Co-Requisite

Assessment Details

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<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
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Module Website

Blackboard