

ECU33062 — Economics of Policy Issues B

Module Information	
Module Code	ECU33062
Module Title	Economics of Policy Issues B
Department	Economics
Year Group	Junior Sophister
Module Personnel	Prof. Michael King
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	2 lectures per week

Module Content	
Module Description	We will analyse the relationship between institutions and policy outcomes. Early lectures will focus on voting behaviour and the impact of forms of government and electoral rules on redistribution and government expenditure. A focus on social justice and entitlements such as health care and old age pensions will then be complemented by analysis of alternative levels of taxation. The module concludes with a more philosophical discussion on the overall need for government in society. Topics include: (i) Voting rules and political competition. The impact of voting on income redistribution. (ii) Social justice and insurance. Moral Hazard and social justice without government. (iii) The attributes and consequences of entitlements. Old age and health care entitlements. (iv) The choice of taxation. Optimal taxation and alternative tax bases. (v) The growth of government and competing views on the need for government.

Module Content	
Module Learning Aims	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, student should be able to: • Identify and understand the key issues involved in welfare economics. • Discuss the basic economic and broad philosophical principles underlying these issues. • Appraise the various arguments/theories relating to these issues. • Formulate a balanced, critical judgment on the status of each of these debates.
Indicative Reading / Resources	The core book is Arye L. Hillman, Public Finance and Public Policy: Responsibilities and Limitations of Government (3rd Edition) Cambridge University Press 2019. Earlier editions will work also.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	Essay 40% Final Exam 60%
Assessment Details	

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	'None'
Co-requisites	'None'
Any other information	Website – Blackboard