

ECU44111— Topics in Political Economy

Module Information	
Module Code	ECU44111
Module Title	Topics in Political Economy
Department	Economics
Year Group	Senior Sophister
Module Personnel	Sharyn O'Halloran
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	10 credits
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	22 hours of lectures plus 4 hours of tutorials

Module Content	
Module Description	The course will introduce students to the field of political economics, which applies the toolbox of economic analysis to the study of politics. The course is organized around a series of topics: • the economic analysis of voting decision, • the selection and motivations of politicians and their impact on public policy, • political accountability and corruption; • the role of mass media and its impact on electoral politics and policy-making, • the origins, persistence and impact of political institutions.
Module Learning Aims	• Provide students with exposure to the fundamental ideas in the field of political economy. The course will cover both theoretical and empirical papers. • Introduce students to how economists think about political economy and, more precisely, the interplay of political science and economics. • Provide students interested in interdisciplinary work with a bridge between subjects as diverse as economics, political science, sociology, history, and philosophy.

Module Content

Learning Outcomes	Having successfully completed this module, students will be able to: 1. confidently discuss papers in the field of Political Economy; 2. critically evaluate contribution to the field of political economy; 3. solve theoretical models; 4. discuss the results and validity of empirical models; 5. propose original research ideas in the field of political economy.
Indicative Reading / Resources	• Besley, Timothy: Principled Agents? Oxford University Press [2006] • Mueller, Dennis: Public Choice III, Cambridge University Press [2005] • Persson, Torsten & Guido Tabellini: Political Economics, MIT Press [2000] • Shepsle, Kenneth: Analyzing Politics, Norton [2010]

Assessment

Assessment Components	• Analytical Exercise 10% • Essay 40% • Examination 50%
Assessment Details	

Additional Information

Prerequisites	‘None’
Co-requisites	‘None’
Any other information	