

ECU44111/ECU44311— Topics in Political Economy

Module Information	
Module Code	<i>ECU44111/ECU44311</i>
Module Title	<i>Topics in Political Economy</i>
Department	<i>Economics</i>
Year Group	<i>Senior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Sharyn O'Halloran</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>10 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 1</i>
Contact Hours	<i>22 hours of lectures plus 4 hours of tutorials</i>

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

Module Content

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

Assessment

Assessment Components	<i>Analytical Exercise 10%</i> <i>Essay 40%</i> <i>Examination 50%</i>
Assessment Details	

Additional Information

Prerequisites	<i>'None'</i>
Co-requisites	<i>'None'</i>
Any other information	