



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* 7th edition (*BIE*)
2. Shepsle, Kenneth, *Analyzing Politics* 2nd 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%
Participation	10%
Final Paper	60%

Module Website

Blackboard