

PO230-30 States and Markets: An Introduction to International Political Economy

21/22

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

James Brassett

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

50% coursework, 50% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Political Economy as an intellectual tradition was already vibrant in the 18th & 19th Centuries, with the disputes between Adam Smith's liberal vision, Mercantilists such as List, and radicals such as Marx. Its starting point is the recognition that social orders, and the institutions which make them up, need to be studied as complex wholes in order to understand the interrelationships between the political and economic aspects. Political economy is also interested in the power relationships that characterise the broader political and economic context in which particular institutions are embedded. Political economy focuses attention on the interaction of states and markets, and on the interplay of structures and the role of agency. It is political economy because concerned with how a particular social order works –and with how it might work, how it should work.

Political Economy, although a core approach and area of investigation in politics and international studies, does not constitute a single approach. Similarly, International Political Economy (IPE) does not have a clear, universally agreed set of concerns, assumptions, or theoretical underpinnings. It has been variously characterised as a 'field of inquiry', 'set of questions' 'area of investigation'. IPE might be termed a 'hosting metaphor' – connoting the exploration of the

relationship between power and wealth. States and Markets conceives of international political economy as the application of the insights of political economy in a comparative way, and explicitly situated within an international context. Term one covers the classic theorists of political economy and relates these issues to contemporary debates about the economy. Term two explores themes and issues – through a range of country / region cases, selected according to the expertise of those engaged in the team teaching of the module. The module is team taught, and exploits considerable research interests amongst many staff in the department. ‘Guest’ lecturers contribute on themes and issues which marry closely with their areas of research interest and expertise.

Module aims

The module aims to:

Introduce students to the key concepts and theoretical debates in International Political Economy (IPE).

Develop awareness of competing theoretical perspectives on IPE.

Explore the relationships between states and markets through a study of key theories, issues and cases in political economy.

Evaluate the contributions of theoretical approaches and perspectives in political economy to understanding the contemporary IPE.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

TBC

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an appreciation of the key concepts and theoretical debates in international political economy.
- Critically evaluate the merits of competing explanations and theoretical perspectives in accounting for developments in contemporary political economy.
- Explore the relationships between states and markets through a study of key theories and issues in political economy.
- Apply political economy insights to analyse particular themes and cases.
- Demonstrate good written and oral communication skills.
- Demonstrate good investigative and retrieval skills, including familiarity with information technology.

Indicative reading list

TBC

Subject specific skills

TBC

Transferable skills

The module provides students with opportunities to acquire or develop the following key skills:

Communication skills

Lateral thinking skills

Skills in the distillation and application of complex information and ideas

Critical thinking

Analytical skills

Independent research skills

Reflecting on what makes 'good' supporting evidence

Problem solving

Time management

Information Technology

Skills in academic practice

Awareness of, and sensitivity to, diversity

Decision making

Educational self-awareness skills

Awareness of, and sensitivity to, the relation of knowledge to the context in which it is generated

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	22 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	22 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Private study	256 hours (85%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

TBA

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group C1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
3000 word essay	50%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Online Examination 2 hour examination (Summer)	50%		No
---	-----	--	----

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

TBC

[Past exam papers for PO230](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 2 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants
- Year 2 of UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
- Year 2 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- Year 2 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 2 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 2 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 2 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
 - Year 2 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
 - Year 3 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
- UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
 - Year 2 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
 - Year 3 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
- UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
 - Year 2 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
 - Year 3 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
 - Year 2 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian
 - Year 3 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law