

# PO391-30 The Political Economy of Money

24/25

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Chris Clarke

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

22 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

"Money talks...", so they say. But what is money? Does it "make the world go round"? In this module we ask these questions and find out that things aren't as straightforward as they might appear: it turns out that there are a lot of different ways of understanding what money actually is, each of which has large implications for how we think about politics and the world around us. From high finance and global monetary relations all the way to hip hop iconography and student debt, money does indeed talk, and this module finds out about what it's saying. This module is an invitation to think about what money is and how it is governed (and to whose benefit).

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

To introduce students to the political economy of global finance through an exploration of the politics of money.

To provide students with knowledge of a wide selection of the various theoretical approaches to money and their political implications

To apply theoretical approaches studied to a number of important contemporary and historical case studies in international political economy

To allow students to develop advanced knowledge in a core area of the sub-discipline of international political economy.

To develop students' understanding of interrelationship between economic and political questions in the study of politics as a whole.

## **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.

Week 1 Introduction: Money and Power

Week 2 Money Creation and Central Banks

Week 3 Hierarchies of Money

Week 4 Value and Money

Week 5 Social Meanings of Money

Week 6 Reading Week

Week 7 The Morality of Money

Week 8 Debt and Money

Week 9 Inflation

Week 10 Cultures of Money and Finance

Week 11 Financial Globalisation

Week 12 The IMF

Week 13 The Development Crisis

Week 14 Monetary Unions and Financial Crises

Week 15 Money and Security

Week 16 Reading Week

Week 17 Local Currencies and Community Resistance

Week 18 Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Technologies

Week 19 The Cashless Society

Week 20 The Future of Money

Week 21 Student-led Reading

Week 22 Revision Materials

## **Learning outcomes**

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

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the theoretical and conceptual debates surrounding the role of money in political economy
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to the role of money in political economy
- Demonstrate an ability to apply the theoretical positions on money to a variety of issue areas in political economy

- Construct and substantiate a comprehensive and sophisticated argument on a variety of topics covered in the module

## **Indicative reading list**

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## **Subject specific skills**

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

- an appreciation of the political economy of money, through an exploration of the social, political, cultural, and economic aspects of money
- a thorough knowledge of the key theoretical approaches to money and their political implications
- the ability to apply theoretical approaches studied to a number of important contemporary and historical case studies associated with the political economy of money

## **Transferable skills**

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

- the ability to apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects
- the transferable/key/generic skills necessary for employment related to Politics and International Studies: lateral thinking; problem solving; detailed critical analysis and interpretation of a variety of primary and secondary sources; the ability to digest, retain and apply complex information and ideas; an understanding of language; skills in research, independent study, group discussion, and in oral and written presentation; the ability to consider unfamiliar ideas and ways of thinking
- the skills necessary for the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility: e.g. the ability to assess their own capacity for and progress in learning; the ability to organize their work and manage their time successfully; the ability to meet deadlines; the ability to reflect critically on the extent and limitations of how and what they have learned, discovered and understood
- the ability to deploy decision-making skills in complex and unpredictable situations
- ability to synthesis ideas drawn from different disciplinary areas in order to understand and/or resolve real world problems
- the ability to recognize and be sensitive to diversity
- skills in the communication of information, ideas, problems and solutions in a variety of ways to a variety of audiences
- the ability to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

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## **Study**

## Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	260 hours (71%)
Assessment	70 hours (19%)
Total	366 hours

## Private study description

TBC

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

### Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
Book Review	20%	10 hours
Book review of one book (selected from a small number of key texts) - due in December at the end of term 1 geared toward exploring how the book(s) in question relate to, and deepen understanding of the core module themes		
Timed Essay Portfolio 1	40%	30 hours
2500 word essay - covering 2 x term 1 topics ; title only released 5 working days before submission		
Timed Essay Portfolio 2	40%	30 hours
2500 word essay - covering 2 x term 2 topics ; title only released 5 working days before submission		

## Feedback on assessment

Essay feedback will be returned within 20 working days of essay submission

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
  - Year 4 of LM1H Economics, Politics & International Studies with Study Abroad
  - Year 4 of LM1H Economics, Politics & International Studies with Study Abroad
- UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
  - Year 3 of LM1D Economics, Politics and International Studies
  - Year 3 of LM1D Economics, Politics and International Studies
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M101 Undergraduate Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 3 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- Year 3 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods
- Year 4 of UPOA-M167 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods (with Intercalated Year)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)

- (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
  - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
  - Year 3 of M16A Politics and International Studies
  - Year 3 of M16A Politics and International Studies
  - Year 3 of M16A Politics and International Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M16B Undergraduate Politics and International Studies (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- Year 4 of UPOA-ML14 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
- Year 4 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16D Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German (3 year degree)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16H Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies (3 year degree)

This module is Option list C for:

- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year

- Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list D for:

- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics