

PO133-15 Foundations of Political Economy

26/27

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Aila Trasi

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

In this module, we study the social, political, cultural and economic foundations of markets. We start from the premise that these spheres are inseparable and explore how they have impacted the development of the global and local economy. Whether it is the relationship between markets and states, the political power wielded by global corporations, or the persistence of global inequalities, this module will help you to understand some of the ways in which political and economic spheres are interlinked, even if we often find that public discourses and policy might treat them separately.

Module aims

This module aims to introduce students to political economy, which is a long-established and vibrant field of political studies. It will serve as a foundation for future years of study on related modules. Its principal objective is to provide a genuine foundation to political economy and help first-year undergraduate students to begin thinking like political economists. The module will be built around a series of key issues in political economy, which will speak to everyday experiences of the contemporary world, and how they link to global dynamics. This will begin to introduce students to critical debates about key concepts and theoretical foundations of political economy.

The aim is to offer a distinctive optional module that is fully complementary to other PAIS modules at this level.

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 to political economy

Week 2: Colonialism

Week 3: Gender

Week 4: Markets

Week 5: Governance

Week 6: Reading Week

Week 7: Labour

Week 8: Money & finance

Week 9: Growth & sustainability

Week 10: Introduction to essay writing and recap

Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of how political economy contributes to the study of politics as a whole.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of different approaches to the study of political economy.
- Be able to relate scholarly literature theorising political economy and actual contemporary developments including very topical events.
- Be able to make informed comparisons of various strengths and weaknesses of different political economy problems and their solutions.
- Ability to critically analyse ideas, in writing, in relation to the issues influencing the transformation of the economy.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

- Learn how to apply a Political Economy lens to current social/political/economic events
- Demonstrate awareness of different approaches to the study of Political Economy, and show their value as both competing and complementary explanatory frameworks
- Connect and interpret contemporary developments in relation to larger macro-historical processes.
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of different Political Economy problems (such as inequality, climate change, or labour exploitation) and their solutions.
- Identify and produce a written analysis of specific issues (technological changes,

globalisation, finance, etc.) influencing the transformation of the economy.

Transferable skills

- Communication skills
 - Lateral thinking skills
 - Skills in the distillation and application of 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
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

tbc

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 A3

Weighting Study time Eligible for self-certification

Assessment component

1 x 2,500-word essay 100% Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

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

Formative and summative feedback will be provided in accordance with standard PAIS practice.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 1 of UPOA-M102 Undergraduate Global Politics (with Integrated Year Abroad at Brussels School of Governance, VUB)
- Year 1 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Year 1 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 1 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 1 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods

This module is Unusual option for:

- Year 1 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 1 of UPHA-V5L2 Undergraduate Philosophy and Politics

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Year 1 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 1 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 1 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German

This module is Option list B for:

- USOA-L301 BA in Sociology
 - Year 1 of L305 Sociology with Specialism in Cultural Studies
 - Year 1 of L303 Sociology with Specialism in Gender Studies
 - Year 1 of L304 Sociology with Specialism in Research Methods
 - Year 1 of L302 Sociology with Specialism in Social Policy