- Faculté des sciences économiques
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Political Economy (5ER2019)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en économie appliquée	**Cours: 2 ph**	**Voir ci-dessous**	3
Master of Law en innovation	**Cours: 2 ph**	**Voir ci-dessous**	3
Master of Science en innovation, orientation Management de la R&D	**Cours: 2 ph**	**Voir ci-dessous**	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

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Objectifs

The goal of this course is to discuss current topics in political economy. This means to study the formation of economic policy from a positive, rather than a normative, perspective. Traditional economic analysis focuses on the optimal use of scarce resources and on the computation of optimal policies. Political economy aims to explain why actual policies often depart, sometimes substantially, from optimal policies. Thus, the course will address questions such as: What are the political and institutional determinants of policy choices in modern democracies? Which features of political institutions are more likely to foster economic development? Why are seemingly inefficient institutions preserved over time and what are the determinants of institutional change?
The course will thus train students to understand how policy decisions are made, and how they can be improved. This will prove helpful in the analysis and forecast of policy decisions, by professionals working in government or international organizations or by market analysts.

Contenu

The course will start with an overview of the field of political economy and in particular, with a discussion of how institutions shape policy decisions and of the functioning (and the origins) of modern states. Some basic "tools" of political economics are introduced. We then focus on political determinants of policy choices in modern democracies. Thus, we ask how electoral rules shape economic performances. We discuss the asymmetries of information and the conflict of interest between opportunistic politicians and the general public. And we examine under what conditions this conflict might be more easily resolved. The next part of the course will address the origins of modern democracies and institutional set-ups (i.e. constitutions) and their relevance for growth and development. Finally, we turn to the analysis of two topics of particular relevance for future policymakers and civil servants: the determination of trade and environmental policies from a political economy perspective.

Forme de l'évaluation

2-hour written exam during the exam session at the end of the semester (100%).
Retake: 2-hour written exam (100%) during the exam session
No documents or connected objects are allowed during the exams. Any violation of these rules will be considered as fraud, leading to the withdrawal of unauthorized items and possibly exam failure.

Documentation

URLs	1) http://college.cqpress.com/Sites/Default.aspx?alias=college.cqpress.com/sites/principlescp 2) http://whynationsfail.com/ 3) http://www.voxeu.org/content/topics/politics-and-economics 4) www.piergiuseppefortunato.info

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Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, William Roberts Clark. 2012. Principles of Comparative Politics (2nd edition). ISBN: 978-1-60871-679-1.
Lecture slides and hand-outs available on the webpage of the course.

URLs	1) http://college.cqpress.com/Sites/Default.aspx?alias=college.cqpress.com/sites/principlescp
	2) http://whynationsfail.com/
	3) http://www.voxeu.org/content/topics/politics-and-economics
	4) www.piergiuseppefortunato.info