Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Political Economics
Course Code	27217
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	ECON-04/A
Language	German
Degree Course	Bachelor in Economics, Politics and Ethics
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Dr. Volker Nitsch, Volker.Nitsch@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/28582
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	3
CP	7
Teaching Hours	42
Lab Hours	-
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	21
Contents Summary	This course explores the dynamic relationship between politics and economics, equipping students with tools to analyse how political forces shape economic outcomes and vice versa. More specifically: Analyses the interaction between political institutions and economic policy, including the effects of electoral systems, governance structures, and political incentives; Examines the role of media and social media in influencing public opinion, political accountability, and policy-making, with attention to polarization and misinformation; Explores the political economy of conflict and violence, focusing on the causes and consequences of civil unrest, and political instability; Encourages critical thinking and debate

	through case studies, and analysis of contemporary political-economic challenges.
Course Topics	Institutions and the Economy Institutions in non-democratic societies Institutional reforms The impact of international politics Civil wars Voter manipulation and vote-buying Organised crime and politics The media, politics and the economy
Keywords	Institutions, elections, conflicts, media
Recommended Prerequisites	It is strongly recommended that you take the 'Macroeconomics' and 'Microeconomics' modules in order to be able to follow these lectures effectively.
Propaedeutic Courses	The frequency of the courses Macroeconomics and Microeconomics is warmly suggested, in order to properly follow these lectures
Teaching Format	Lecture
Mandatory Attendance	Suggested, but not required
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	ILO (Intended Learning Outcomes) ILO 1 Knowledge and understanding ILO 1.1 ability to understand complex economic texts in the three teaching languages; ILO 1.2 ability to understand how political decisions are formulated and how these decisions affect the economy ILO 2 Applying knowledge and understanding ILO 2.1 ability to apply methods of economic theory to certain topics in political science ILO 2.2 ability to interact with native speakers in a fluent and spontaneous manner on economic topics; ILO 2.3 ability to produce texts on topics of scientific interest; ILO 2.4 ability to understand the role of the state in relation to different political-economic issues and to weigh up possible solutions in the political-economic field; ILO 2.5 ability to understand, analyse and identify political decision-making processes;

	ILO 3 Making judgements ILO 3.1 Acquisition of the ability to make judgements and the methodological tools useful for the critical analysis of data, sources, assumptions and implications of scientific practice, of the political, ethical and legal context within which economic phenomena are set and with which they interact ILO 4 Communication skills ILO 4.1 Proficiency (oral and written) in Italian, German and English, including translation between these languages. Intercultural competence. Conceptual awareness, synthesis and written expression, in particular in the drafting of scientific or science-based documents ILO 5 Learning skills ILO 5.1 Promotion of critical thinking and analytical skills to focus on complex problems in their long-term dynamics and the variety of their implications, including ethical ones
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	Final written examination without aids (learning outcomes 1–5 will be assessed).
Evaluation Criteria	The final exam assesses students' knowledge and understanding of the topics covered in the course.
Required Readings	The course is based on the latest academic articles, which are updated regularly.
Supplementary Readings	
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Peace, justice and strong institutions, Reduced inequalities