



Module Specification

Political Economy

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Contents

Module Specification	1
Part 1: Information	2
Part 2: Description	2
Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	3
Part 4: Assessment.....	4
Part 5: Contributes towards	6

Part 1: Information

Module title: Political Economy

Module code: UMETBQ-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Business School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Economics

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: Yes

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module offers an in-depth exploration of the fundamental theories and perspectives within political economy, focusing on the ideologies of classical liberalism, conservatism, modern liberalism, and radicalism. Through critical analysis and comparative study, students will gain insights into the historical development, key tenets, and policy implications of each perspective. By examining the diverse approaches to economic and political organisation, students will develop a nuanced

understanding of the complexities surrounding governance, markets, social welfare, and individual freedoms.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The principal goal of this module is to help you to find, identify, and think critically about the political ideology embedded within every economic issue, as well as to comment and engage in discussion about the global political and economic landscape. By the end of the semester, you should be able to articulate and substantiate your interpretation of political economic issues, respect and appreciate the perspective and interpretation of others, and evaluate all information critically and challenge information confidently.

This module is purposefully controversial. The emphasis of the module is on interpretation and perception as opposed to working through the mechanics of neoclassical economics. The strategy is to combine discussion of the philosophic fundamentals of political economy, an overview of heterodox economic thought, and discussion of current controversies.

Outline syllabus: Topics covered could include (and are not limited to):
Explorations of the root political economy philosophies of classical liberalism, modern liberalism, conservatism, and radicalism.

Applications of these 4 political economic philosophies to:

Role of the state in the economy

Economic stability and instability

Poverty

Labor and employment

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module is based on the 3Ps (Prepare, Participate, Practise) approach to learning. Before attending lectures and tutorials, students will be expected to prepare. This will involve, for example, reviewing the previous and current week's study and learning materials (posted on the VLE (Virtual

Learning Environment)); doing allocated readings/activities for each week's topic; making use of UWE study skills resources; and making use of student support hours (or office hours). During lectures and tutorials, students will be expected to participate. This will involve, for example, actively engaging in discussions, asking questions, and doing in-class activities. Students will be expected to practise. This will involve, for example, practicing academic skills (e.g., academic critical thinking skills, academic reading and writing skills, etc) that the module aims to help students to develop and demonstrate, by, for example, preparing drafts of academic writing to be reviewed by lecturers and module leaders and by using UWE study skills resources. Typically, the lectures will deliver the module content, and the tutorials will allow for discussions and other approaches for deepening understandings of content covered in lectures and for helping students to develop and practise academic skills. In-class discussions will provide students with the opportunity to discuss and explore the practical application of the learned concepts.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the historical variety and pluralist nature of economic thought.

MO2 Articulate and defend ideas in a variety of contexts.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/umetbq-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/umetbq-15-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module deploys a mix of formative and summative assessments. The assessment strategy uses scenarios that enable students to evaluate and substantiate their interpretation of political economic issues, articulate various perspectives and interpretations of others, and evaluate all information critically and challenge information confidently. This will be examined both formatively and summatively.

Formative assessment takes various forms and will occur throughout the module.

Examples include:

Engagement with other students in seminars that encourages a sense of belonging; and

Weekly individual/group presentations and discussion on the themes covered in the syllabus.

Summative assessment is a scenario-based examination requiring students to use understanding of political economic theories and perspectives (100%).

Assessment tasks:

Examination (Online) (First Sit)

Description: Exam (3 hours within a 24-hour window).

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Exam (3 hours within a 24-hour window).

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Economics {Foundation}[Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Economics {Dual} [Taylors] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Economics [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26