



Course Overview **Political Economics**

Professor: Ruben Durante

Session: June

Language of instruction: English

Summary

The course will introduce students to the field of political economics, which applies the toolbox of economic analysis to the study of politics. The course will be organized around a series of topics: starting with the economic analysis of electoral turnout and voting decision, it will then focus on the selection and motivations of politicians and their impact on public policy, and on questions such as political accountability and corruption; it will then examine the role of mass media and their impact on electoral politics and policy-making, as well as the issue of political distortions through examples such as patronage politics, lobbying, and political connections; finally, it will discuss issues related to crime, conflict and violence, as well as the origins, persistence and impact of political institutions.

The course will be primarily based on the reading of recent research papers and the in-depth discussion of their theories, methods, and results. There are no pre-requisites; however, previous exposure to economics courses and familiarity with quantitative methods are desirable.

Professor biography



Ruben Durante is Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Sciences Po. He holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University where, in 2010, he was awarded the prize for best dissertation in the social sciences. He has taught courses in economics and political sciences at Sciences Po and Yale University. His areas of research are political economics, media economics, experimental economics, and economic development.