

# Political Economy

## Syllabus

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The course is intended to provide students with skills to grasp the main issues of institutions functioning and political behavior. Most topics will be approached both from the theoretical and the empirical points of view.

Lectures of this course are inspired from those taught by D. Acemoglu, Y. Algan, R. Durante, and B. Olken.

### Outline

**Lecture 1 – From social choice to political economy**

**Lecture 2 – Political agency and electoral control**

**Lecture 3 – Collective action and diversity**

**Lecture 4 – Politics and the media**

**Lecture 5 – Dictatorships (and revolutions)**

### Course materials

Lectures' notes will be posted at the following address: [http://marcsangnier.free.fr/politicaconomy\\_m2\\_2015-2016.php](http://marcsangnier.free.fr/politicaconomy_m2_2015-2016.php). Some readings will be posted at the same address. Login and password necessary to access readings will be given in class during the first session.

### Timing

Sessions will take place in Aix en Provence in room 206 Forbin. Please find below the scheduled timing.

Monday November 23, 9:00pm–12:00pm

Monday November 30, 9:00pm–12:00pm

Monday December 7, 9:00pm–12:00pm

Wednesday December 9, 9:00pm–12:00pm

Monday December 14, 9:00pm–12:00pm

Monday January 4, 9:00pm–12:00pm

Monday January 11, 9:00pm–12:00pm

Monday January 18, 9:00pm–12:00pm

## Grading

Students will be graded on the basis of a final exam and an optional intermediary exam. The optional exam will last 2 hours and is planned on Monday January 4. The scope of the optional exam will include all lectures up to this date. Students who choose to take the optional exam will be graded using the average of both grades if and only if the optional exam's grade is above the final exam's one. Otherwise, they will be graded using the final exam's grade. Students who do not choose to take the optional exam will be graded using the final exam's grade. The final exam will last 2 hours and will take place later in the semester. The scope of the final exam will include all lectures.

## Reference handbook

*Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy*, by T. Persson and G. Tabellini - The MIT Press

## Complementary handbooks

*Principled Agents? The Political Economy of Good Government*, by T. Besley - Oxford University Press

*Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, by D. Acemoglu and J.A. Robinson - Cambridge University Press