

# Economics of Political Institutions (SESS0073)

## Key Information

**Faculty**

Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences

**Teaching department**

SSEES - Social Sciences

**Credit value**

15

**Restrictions**

This course is open to final year students only. In order to register for this course students must have the following prerequisites completed: SESS0020 Topics in Microeconomics

## Alternative credit options

There are no alternative credit options available for this module.

## Description

This course introduces students to the following topics, among others: theoretical conceptions of democracy, the formation of the state, democratic transitions and democratic consolidation, democracy and growth, electoral representation and political accountability, the relationship between democracy and redistribution, welfare and democracy, and colonialism/globalism and democracy.

The course will focus on exploring the twin problems of economic development and political liberalization. Why do countries differ in their level of economic development? Why is democracy absent in a broad swathe of the world? Does democracy matter? Can democratic governments shape the economy according to their political preferences or electoral commitments? Or are they constrained by any 'exogenous' forces?

While other courses at SSEES also examine similar topics, what sets this course apart is the use of rigorous quantitative techniques and theoretical economics tools to evaluate the origin and consequences of political institutions. Political institutions will be studied using an economics approach. The module's aim is to teach students critical thinking based on interpreting and using quantitative analyses. To this end, the students will develop their skills in interpreting regression analyses and in evaluating how theoretical predictions can be tested econometrically. Finally, the module will also seek to develop and improve students' writing skills.

## Module deliveries for 2020/21

## Teaching and assessment

### Methods of assessment

70% Individual research project  
30% Team-based report

### Mark scheme

Numeric Marks

## Other information

### Number of students on module in previous year

0

### Module leader

Professor Nauro Ferreira Campos

### Who to contact for more information

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## Last updated

This module description was last updated on 1st September 2020