

Public Choice — Essential Reading List

ECO1028 — Spring 2026

Textbook (optional): Mueller, D. C. (2003). *Public Choice III*. Cambridge University Press.

Week 1: Introduction

Required: Shughart (2018) — Public Choice Theory

Optional: Buchanan (2003) — Politics Without Romance

Week 2: Paradox of Voting

Required: Feddersen (2004) — Rational Choice Theory and the Paradox of Not Voting

Optional: Blais (2006) — What Affects Voter Turnout?

Week 3: Median Voter Theorem

Required: Holcombe (1989) — The Median Voter Model in Public Choice Theory

Optional: Lee et al. (2004) — Do Voters Affect or Elect Policies?

Week 4: Political Competition & Macroeconomic Performance

Required: Shi & Svensson (2006) — Political Budget Cycles

Required: Alesina & Summers (1993) — Central Bank Independence

Optional: Schuknecht (2000) — Fiscal Policy Cycles

Week 5: Bureaucracy

Required: Wyckoff (1990) — The Simple Analytics of Slack-Maximizing Bureaucracy

Optional: Dunleavy (1985) — Bureaucrats and State Growth

Week 6: Federalism & Decentralisation

Required: Oates (1999) — An Essay on Fiscal Federalism

Optional: Tiebout (1956) — A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures

Week 7: READING WEEK

No assigned readings — Use this week to prepare your Project 1 presentation

Week 8: Interest Groups, Rent-Seeking & Lobbying

Required: Olson (1965) — *The Logic of Collective Action*, Chapter 1

Optional: Tullock (1967) — The Welfare Costs of Tariffs

Optional: Stigler (1971) — The Theory of Economic Regulation

Week 9: Behavioural Economics

Required: Thaler & Sunstein (2003) — Libertarian Paternalism

Optional: DellaVigna (2009) — Psychology and Economics

Week 10: Institutions, Development & Political Regimes

Required: Acemoglu et al. (2005) — Institutions and Growth

Required: Rodrik et al. (2004) — Institutions Rule

Optional (self-study): Mueller (2003) — Chapter 18: Dictatorship & Revolution

Optional (self-study): Gandhi & Przeworski (2006) — History of Dictators

Reading Priorities

1. **Required readings** — Read before class, focus on main argument and evidence
2. **Optional readings** — Read for your Irish Context presentation week or Project 1 background
3. **Self-study materials (Week 10)** — Only if interested in dictatorship/autocracy topic

Finding Papers

If you can't access something, email me at beatriz.gietner@dcu.ie

See complete reading list on Loop/GitHub for:

- Full citations with journal details
- Additional optional readings
- Reading tips and strategies
- Supplementary resources