

Social Choice and Political Economy with a Latin American Perspective

****This course does not require knowledge of advanced mathematical tools and concepts****

During this course, the students will not only learn theoretical foundations, but an important focus will be placed in the contributions of Latin American authors and applications in Latin America.

It will start with an introduction to Game Theory, the fundamental analytical tool for the study of Social Choice Theory and Political Economy.

On the one hand, Social Choice Theory studies theoretical rules that aggregate individual preferences to set collective decisions or welfare criteria. Classical literature dates back from Condorcet (Condorcet's Paradox, Condorcet's Jury Theorem) to Kenneth Arrow (Arrow's Impossibility Theorem), and it extends to market design for proposing rules, algorithms that solve real life allocation problems, such as school choice problems or kidney exchange programs.

On the other hand, the subfield of Political Economy studies the impact of rules and mechanisms that shape important aspects of political systems, like the single-term mandates versus the possibility of re-election.