

COURSE DETAIL

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LAW

Country

France

Host Institution

Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)

Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Legal Studies International Studies

UCEAP Course Number

156

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LAW

UCEAP Transcript Title

POL ECON INTL LAW

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course analyzes the structures and functions of international public law using the methodological and theoretical tools of political economy. Rather than treating law as an autonomous system of norms, the course interrogates how legal regimes emerge, operate, and evolve in relation to power, interests, and material structures at the international level. We examine how legal frameworks reflect and institutionalize global distributions of power, economic interdependence, and the strategic behavior of states and non-state actors. Topics include sovereignty, trade, development, human rights, investment law, and environmental regimes, with a focus on power asymmetries, institutional design, and enforcement. Adopting a political economy approach to analyzing law - and public international law in particular - has a number of analytical, critical and empirical advantages. It highlights underlying power relationships; the political economy approach enables one to understand who writes law, for whose benefit, and in what structural context (imperialism, capitalism, inter-state rivalry).

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

DDRO 25A06

Host Institution Course Title

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LAW

Host Institution Course Details

<https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202510%2F286215=>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Seminar

Host Institution Department

Law

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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