

COURSE DETAIL

STATE, LAW AND THE ECONOMY

Country

Hong Kong

Host Institution

University of Hong Kong

Program(s)

University of Hong Kong

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Economics

UCEAP Course Number

119

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

STATE, LAW AND THE ECONOMY

UCEAP Transcript Title

STATE LAW & ECON

UCEAP Quarter Units

5.00

UCEAP Semester Units

3.30

Course Description

This course employs economic analysis to examine the interrelationships between three institutions: the state, law, and the economy. Topics covered include the nature and origin of the state, the differences between liberal and populist conceptions of the democratic state, and the dilemmas of political organization, conflict, and succession in autocratic states. The course also explores the rule of law, the relationship between political and economic order, and rent-seeking groups. Additionally, it delves into the distinctions between common law and civil law systems and the consequences of these differences. The course also investigates the modernization hypothesis, critical juncture theory, and the factors that contribute to the transition between dictatorships and democracies (and vice versa). Furthermore, it examines the role of economic, behavioral, and structural factors in these transitions, as well as the reasons why revolutions often come as surprises. The course also seeks to answer whether democracy promotes growth, the impact of inherited legal systems on growth, and the relationship between rulers, citizens, and interest groups in the pre-industrial world. Utilizing an analytic narratives approach, the course draws upon comparative case histories from various regions, including Europe, America, China, India, and the Middle East, to offer a comprehensive understanding of these topics.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

ECON 2276

Host Institution Course Title

STATE, LAW AND THE ECONOMY

Host Institution Course Details

https://ug.hkubs.hku.hk/f/course/255254/25_26-ECON2276.pdf

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Business

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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