

**POLITICAL ECONOMICS (CODE 30146)**  
**ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15**

**GROUP ASSIGNMENTS: ORGANIZATION**

Please let us know the composition of your groups (from a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 5 students per group) by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

You should write an email with the composition of your group to [giampaolo.lecce@unibocconi.it](mailto:giampaolo.lecce@unibocconi.it) (including in Cc all the members of the group).

In the above email, you should choose your preferred topic (from the list below), your second best, and your third best. The allocation of groups to topics will be based on the first-come first-served criterion.

**GROUP ASSIGNMENTS: GUIDELINES**

Each topic must deal with a real-world case study on the interplay between politics and economic policy. You should discuss the case at hand using insights from the political economics approach that we discussed in class.

Based on the assigned topic, you should write:

- A short essay: **max 10,000 characters** (with spaces)
- A set of slides: **max 8 slides** (including the frontpage)

You should organize both the essay and the slides so as to answer the following questions:

- What's the chosen topic about? And why is it relevant?
- What kind of political economy perspective is useful to study this topic?
- State your critical view of the topic. (*Hint*: be precise on whether you are making positive or normative statements.)

By **May 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am**, you should send to [giampaolo.lecce@unibocconi.it](mailto:giampaolo.lecce@unibocconi.it) your essays and slides (both in PDF).

On **May 15<sup>th</sup>**, we'll randomly draw about half of the groups and they'll have to present their topic in a 20-minute presentation. You'll discover in class whether your group is presenting or not.

You'll receive your grade on the essay/slides (by email) before the final exam date.

**GROUP ASSIGNMENTS: TOPICS**

You may pick one of the following topics.

Possible topics:

1. Common Agricultural Policy in the European Union
2. The Brazilian Anti-Corruption Program
3. The California Redistricting Reform

4. An Example of Pension Reform in a Given Country
5. The UK Debate on Electoral Reform: Who Wins, Who Loses?
6. The Australian Electoral System
7. The Mauritius Electoral System
8. The German Electoral System
9. An Example of Labor Market Reform in a Given Country
10. The UK Debate on Outside Earnings by Members of Parliament
11. The US Regulation on Outside Earnings by Congressmen
12. Salary Harmonization in the European Parliament
13. The “No Tav” Movement in Italy
14. Social Media and Protests in Venezuela
15. Public Debate on Immigration in a Given Country
16. “The True Believer” by E. Hoffer: A (Short) Critical Review
17. “The Moral Basis of a Backward Society” by E. Banfield: A (Short) Critical Review
18. The Recent Italian Electoral Reform (“Italicum”)