



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

New Course Offering: 2nd Semester AY 2013-2014

ECONOMICS 198: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMY

Course Background:

Modern political economy is concerned with the economics of two basic socio-political conflicts, and how these conflicts affect economic policies and growth. The first conflict is among citizens, voters or committee members who must agree on how to resolve their differences and come up with a collective decision. For example, they can decide to write a constitution, committee rules or contracts. The second conflict is between the citizen-voters and their political leaders, whose respective interests are not necessarily aligned. Thus, citizen-voters may hold regular elections or People Power movement to replace bad leaders with good ones. Through time societies have developed various ways to resolve these conflicts. Some countries have also managed to adopt the right economic policies leading to growth. Others ended up with bad policies and continue to do so, which only prolonged their destitution. Interestingly, some countries with bad governments managed to get rich, while some of those with good governments failed to take off economically.

Course Description:

The course will provide an introduction to the theory and empirics to explain how such conflicts have been resolved and how they should be resolved to promote overall economic welfare.

Number of Units: Three (3) units

Prerequisites: Econ 101, 102/ COI

INSTRUCTOR:



Joseph J. Capuno is an Associate Professor at the UP School of Economics. His research interests are on public economics, development economics, and health economics. He makes it a point that students would enjoy his lectures but not his exams.