

POL1050: Money, Power & Democracy

Introduction – 8/9/2025

If you follow the money...

**THE
WIRE**





Dáil Éireann

Tuesday, 1 Oct

Vol. 1058 No. 6

Dáil Éireann debate - Tuesday, 1 Oct 2024 » Budget Statement

Budget Statement 2025



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**Minister for
Finance**
(Deputy Jack
Chambers)



A Cheann Comhairle, is onóir
deireanach théarma an Rialta
chomhghleacaí, an tAire, an Teachta

INTRODUCTION

When this Government took office in
and in the midst of a global pandem
on our society and economy. The effe
was devastating. While only emerginc

Press release

General Election on 29 November 2024

From: [Department of the Taoiseach](#)

Published on: 8 November 2024

Last updated on: 12 April 2025

Pursuant to an advice of the Taoiseach Simon Harris, under Article 13.2 of the Constitution, the President has today dissolved Dáil Éireann and has summoned the incoming Dáil to meet on Wednesday, 18 December 2024, at 10.30am.

Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, has today made an order appointing Friday, 29 November 2024 as polling day and the hours from 7am to 10pm to be the hours of polling at the General Election.

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Donohoe: Budget 2025 not designed to keep voters sweet before election

Speaking to the Irish Examiner, Mr Donohoe said that an election budget would have seen the €25bn surplus doled out rather than allocating €16bn to two separate funds for next year


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Government is not trying to buy votes with budget, says Simon Harris

The Taoiseach said he was confident the Government had listened to the Irish people



Taoiseach Simon Harris: 'What the Irish people have said is this: Of course inflation is falling, but it hasn't yet fallen in my kitchen. It hasn't yet fallen on my farmyard and it hasn't yet fallen on my shop floor.' Picture: Sam Boal/Collins

Ireland

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Ireland election puts big-spending parties on track to retain power

Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael prepare to continue coalition after support for opposition Sinn Féin drops

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Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin, left, celebrates with Irish EU commissioner Michael McGrath, centre, as McGrath's brother Seamus, right, is elected to parliament © Jacob King/PA

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This raises questions

- Is criticism justified?
- Do you think money affected voters?
- Should the state prevent this from happening?
- Or should the market prevail?

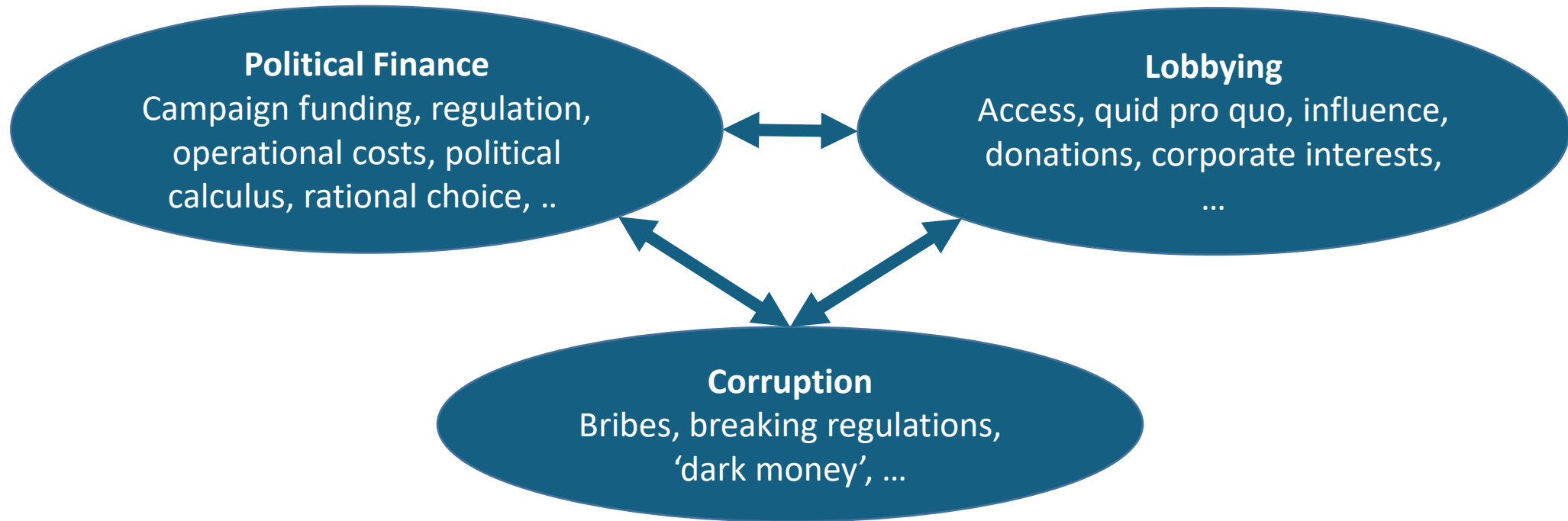
Course Goals

- How do money, power and democracy link up?
- How do different polities approach this?
- How does this result in benefits to legislators, political elites, interest groups, corporations & citizens?

Application to real-world examples in Ireland and beyond

- Musk's US election lottery
- Qatargate in EU Parliament
- ...

Course overview (1)



Case Studies
Ireland, EU, US

Course overview (2)

4 seminars, 4 graded preparations (50% of total grade)

1. 6 & 8 October: Theories & Data
 - Readings with questions
2. 29 October: Irish political finance reform
 - Simulation exercise
3. 10 November: EU Qatargate
 - Simulation exercise
4. 19 November: US Political Action Committees
 - Readings with questions

Examples

- **Reading question:** what is main conclusion? What are limitations?
 - Usually easy to find but will help with understanding of the text

- **Simulation:**

You are a senior consultant with BizIntel, a commercial research company, which ranks the level of corruption in business environments every year. You have been asked to evaluate the Republic of Huffnstuff on a scale of 0 (no corruption) to 10 (absolute) corruption. You are also asked to rate the certainty of the evaluation from 0 completely certain to 10 completely uncertain.

Evaluation

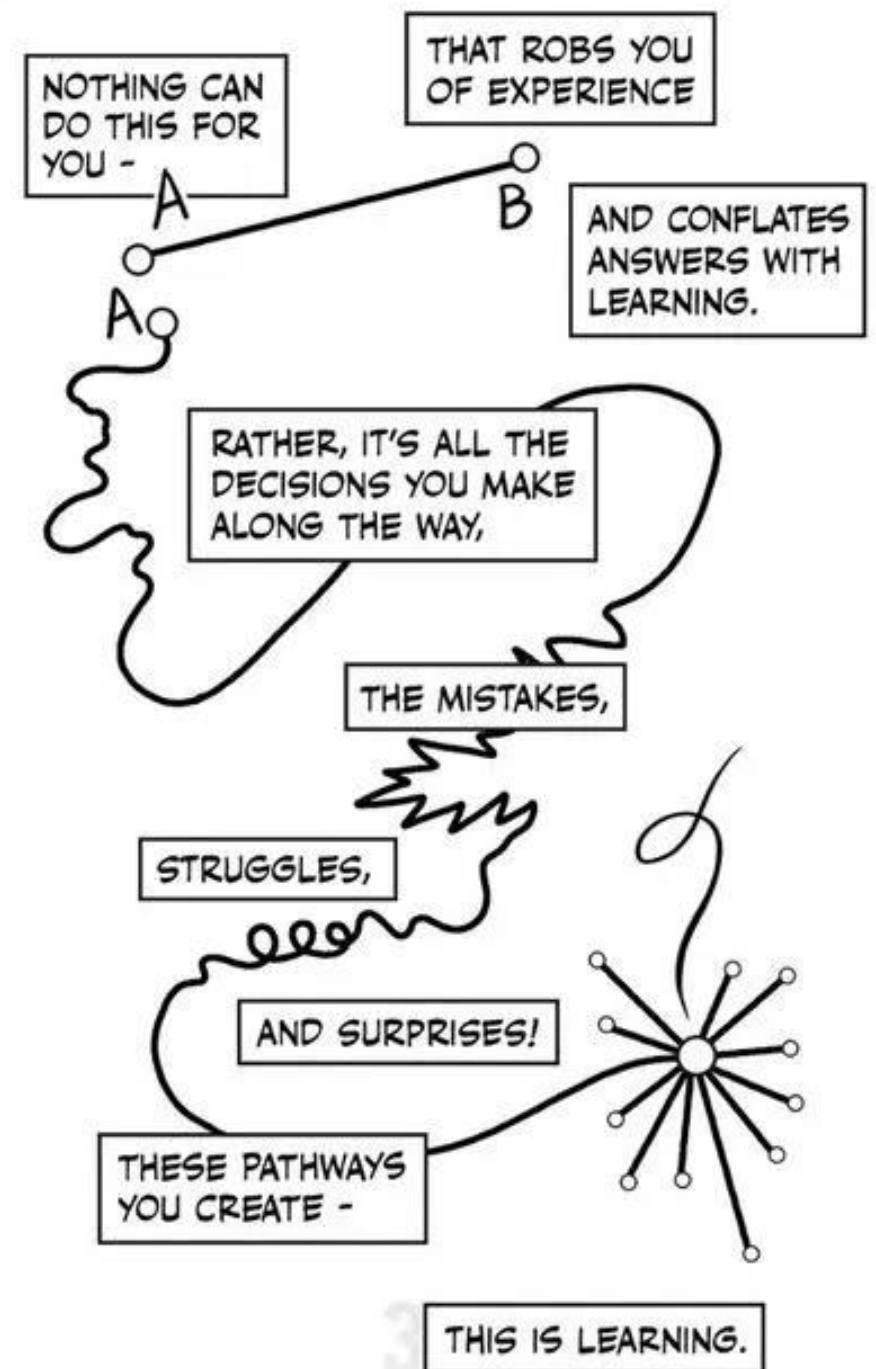
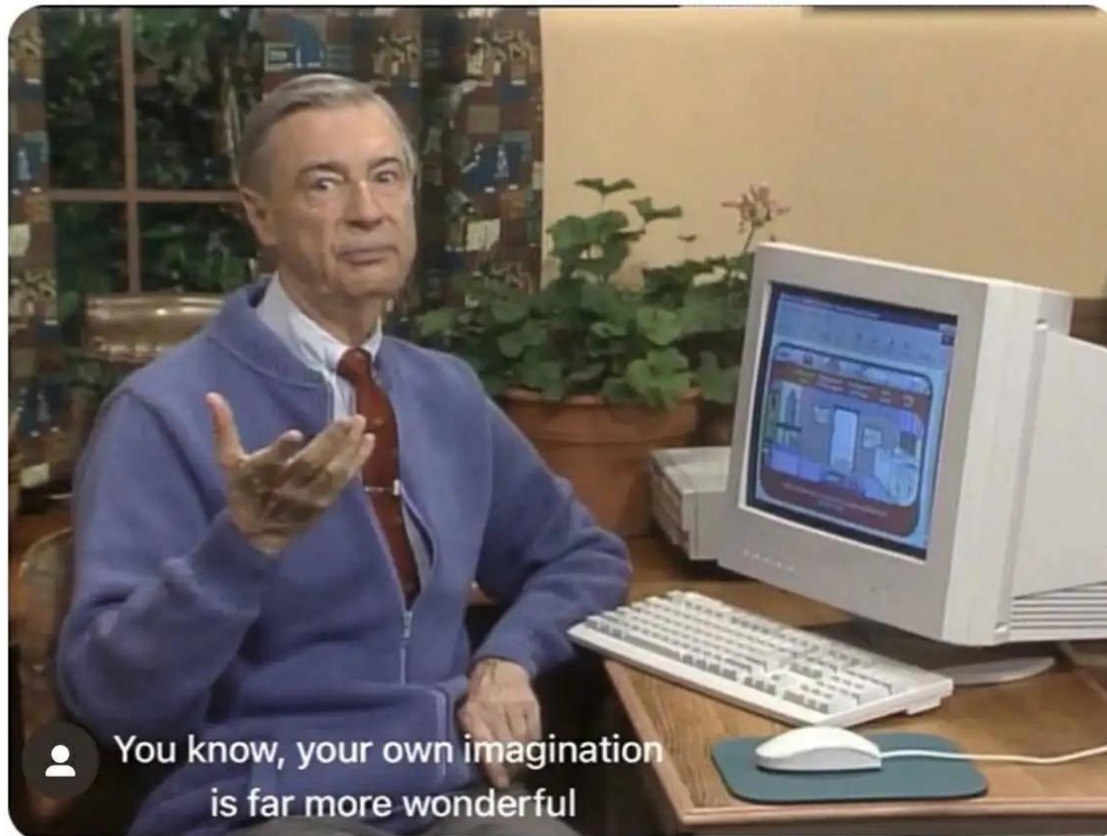
- Preparations (50%)
- Question to be prepared at home and presented (26 November)
 - 3 questions selected prepared, one will be selected
 - 25%
 - Needs to be representative of the course, but you can be creative!
 - “Discuss the referendum campaign finance regime in Ireland”
- Formal exam (25%)
 - Open book
 - Open essay question
 - “Campaign spending does not affect vote choice”

Important dates (everything sent by email)

Preparation 1	7 am, October 6
3 Questions	7 am, October 20
Preparation 2	7 am, October 29
Preparation 3	7 am, November 10
Preparation 4	7 am, November 19
Presentation	7 am, November 26

Use of AI

Whenever someone tells me they used ChatGPT



Final Notes

- No recordings, but slides will be made available after class
- Let us openly discuss and disagree
- Ask me as many questions as you want
- Let me know if you don't understand

But ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning