

Syllabus
Course description

Course title	Public Economics
Course code	27065
Scientific sector	SECS-P/03
Degree	LM 63 – Master in economics and management of the public sector
Semester and academic year	2nd semester, ay 2016/2017
Year	1st year
Credits	7
Modular	no

Total lecturing hours	42
Total lab hours	-
Total exercise hours	-
Attendance	suggested, but not required
Prerequisites	The frequency of the economics courses in the LM 63 master program is suggested to properly follow these lectures
Course page	http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/progs/master/economics_publicsector/timetable/default.html

Specific educational objectives	The course refers to the typical educational activities and belongs to the scientific area of Economics/Business Administration. The goal of the course is to give a detailed overview of Public Economics, with specific educational goals to convey a deepened understanding of how the markets for education, labour and health operate and the role of government in these sectors.
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Lecturer	Steven Stillman office E 3.03, tel 0471 013132, Lecturer's page http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/people/StaffDetails.html?personid=36390&hstf=36390
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SECS-P/03 (Scienza delle Finanze)
Teaching language	English
Office hours	21
Lecturing assistant	none
Teaching assistant	none
Office hours	See Timetable
List of topics covered	Empirical methods used in public economics; the provision of education; educational quality and competition; labour supply decisions; taxes and transfers; social insurance; work and family discrimination; healthcare provision; and immigration.
Teaching format	Lectures

Learning outcomes	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>The goal of the course is to prepare you to look at public policy questions through the lens of economics. You will gain a deepened understanding of how the markets for education, labour and health operate and the role of the government in these sectors.</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <p>At the end of the course, you should be able to identify economic issues that are important in public policy debates, be able to consume and critique economic research on these topics, and then use the tools you have learned to address such debates from an informed perspective.</p> <p>Making judgments</p> <p>Course participants should be able to combine and apply concepts acquired in the lecture and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, that include reflecting on social and public responsibilities in decision-making processes.</p> <p>Communication skills</p> <p>Both oral and written communication skills will be developed in this course via presentations and written assessments. Students will be expected to be able to present research findings to both specialist and non-specialist audiences in a clear and precise way.</p> <p>Learning skills</p> <p>The course will help participants to better think logically, analytically and critically, and bring these skills to their future workplaces.</p>
Assessment	<p>A midterm and final exam as well as a group presentations. Non-attendees should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester if they would like to participate in the group presentations. Non-attendees are also allowed to take the midterm exam.</p>
Assessment language	<p>English</p>
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>The final grade will be a weighted average of the group presentations (20%), written midterm exam (40%) and the written final exam (40%). Non-attending students and students that reject their midterm grade will be given a</p>

	<p>longer final that will count for 80% of the final grade if the student did the group presentations or 100% if they were completely non-attending.</p> <p>The in-class slides of the instructor will form the basis for the material covered in the exams and will be made available to the students online. A reading list from the books by Gruber and Borjas will also be provided and material from these chapters can be covered in the exams as well.</p> <p>Criteria are standard: in exams correct procedure and solution counts. In addition, solutions to problems require the ability to summarize, evaluate, and establish relationships between topics, and skills in critical thinking. Similar skills are required for the group presentations along with teamwork.</p>
Required readings	<p>5th edition of Public Finance and Public Policy, by Jonathan Gruber – Chapters 1-3, 11-17, 21</p> <p>7th edition of Labor Economics by George J. Borjas – Chapters – Chapters 2, 4-7, 9</p>
Supplementary readings	<p>Selected research papers and articles will be presented during the lectures and are suggested readings. Paper will be assigned to the groups for the presentations.</p>