Syllabus

Course description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Public Economics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course code</td>
<td>27199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific sector</td>
<td>SECS-P/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Bachelor Economics and Social Sciences (L-33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester and academic year</td>
<td>1st semester 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>3rd year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modular</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total lecturing hours</td>
<td>42 (G. Schamel: 18 hours + S. Stillman: 24 hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total lab hours</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total exercise hours</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Highly Recommended, but not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>Previous attendance of an introductory course in microeconomics is strongly suggested, to properly follow the lectures.</td>
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Specific educational objectives

The course belongs to the scientific area of public sector economics and is a typical educational activity for any degree in Economics. The course gives a general overview on the subject and related scientific research including the analysis of externalities and topics in environmental and resource economics. The course aims to link knowledge and understanding on the public sector of the economy through the application of basic skills in economic analysis. Students will develop the capacity to understand economic, social, cultural, and policy issues related to the public sector economy, the environment and natural resources. They will learn about how to apply economic concepts in the field and how to relate their knowledge to real world economic issues.

Lecturers

Günter Schamel,
Office E5.07,
gschamel@unibz.it,
tel. 0471 013170,
www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/12015-guenter-schamel

Steven Stillman,
Office E3.03,
steven.stillman@unibz.it,
tel. 0471 013132,
www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/36390-steven-stillman

Scientific sector of the lecturers

AGR/01 and SECS/P-03

Teaching language

English
Office hours
9 hours Prof. Schamel
12 hours Prof. Stillman
Cockpit – students’ zone – individual timetable
Webpage:
https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?department=26&degree=12833%2C13016

Lecturing assistant
Eugenio Levi
Office E523
Tel.: 0471 013 525
eugenio.levi@unibz.it

Teaching assistant
None

List of topics covered


Teaching format
Lectures, discussions, small group projects, exercises, etc.

Learning outcomes
Knowledge and understanding:
Students should know analytical tools used in public economics and acquire knowledge on the theory of externalities with applications to environmental and health, dynamic efficiency and sustainable development, sustainable resource use, public goods and their provision, political economy models, social insurance and social security, taxation and government regulation.

Applying knowledge and understanding:
Students should be able to comprehend and apply research contributions. They will learn how to interpret theoretical ideas and applied research results such as to the ability to adapt government interventions.

Making judgments:
Student should be able to reflect on specific problems and formulate judgments that include a critical reflection on the relevant social and economic issues involved.

Communication skills:
Students should be able to communicate content, key concepts, research ideas, problems and solutions as well as research results to both a specialist and non-specialist audience.

Learning skills:
Students are able to link economic theory and specific economic problems related to the public sector. They are expected to extend their knowledge acquired during the course autonomously by reading and understanding scientific research and analysis and to continue to undertake further study in order to do a literature review and to frame a proper research question.
## Assessment

Obligatory written final exam and a course project: The written exam will be at the end of the term with questions covering the subjects discussed in the lectures. The course project is done in groups of 2 students and it includes a written project report and short 10-minute presentation of the main ideas developed. Ideas for possible course projects and a handout on how to do the project will be provided.

For the obligatory final exam neither textbooks, nor other teaching materials, nor any electronic devices are allowed in the examination room. Dictionaries without notes and simple calculators are permitted.

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<tr>
<th>Assessment language</th>
<th>English</th>
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### Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks

The written final exam is worth 75% and the course project consisting of a written report, presentation and participation is worth 25% of the course grade. For attending students, the course project is compulsory and for non-attending students the final grade is solely based on a written final exam (100%) that differs in content in parts from the exam for attending students.

Relevant for assessing the written exam is the clarity of answers, mastery of the teaching language, and the ability to summarize, evaluate, and establish relationships between topics and to solve formal problems.

Relevant for assessing the course project is the ability to work on a specified topic, creativity, critical thinking, ability to structure and summarize ideas in your own words, team work and an effective presentation.

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Selected articles are suggested as supplementary readings. They will be presented during the lecture and uploaded to the reserve collection. |