## 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>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific sector</td>
<td>SECS-P/03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Bachelor Economics and Social Sciences (L-33)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester and academic year</td>
<td>1st semester 2020-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>3rd year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modular</td>
<td>No</td>
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**Total lecturing hours**: 42 (G. Schamel: 18 hours + S. Stillman: 24 hours)

**Total lab hours**: --

**Total exercise hours**: 24

**Attendance**: Highly Recommended, but not required.

**Prerequisites**: Previous attendance of an introductory course in microeconomics is strongly suggested, to properly follow the lectures.


**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,

**Steven Stillman**, 
Office E3.03,
steven.stillman@unibz.it,
tel. 0471 013132,

### 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/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13141%2C13182

Lecturing assistant: TBA
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 an obligatory course project: The written exam will be at the end of the term with questions covering the subjects discussed in the lectures. For attending students, the course project is done in groups of 2 students and it includes a written project report (about 10
pages) and short 10-minute presentation of the main ideas developed. Non-attending students can do a course project in groups of 2 students if they prefer but must sign-up when this is offered, i.e. agree on a topic with the instructors at the least 2 months before the exam that they wish to take. Non-attending students can also do a written 10-page project on their own, with the instructors assigning a topic at the latest 2 months before the exam that they wish to take. 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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<td>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</td>
<td>The written final exam is worth 70% and the course project consisting of a written report, presentation and participation for attending students and a written report for non-attending students is worth 30% of the course grade. 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, teamwork and an effective presentation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplementary readings</td>
<td>Mankiw, G. 2014, Principles of Economics. 7th Edition. Cengage Learning. Including previous editions for review of basic microeconomic tools. Selected articles are suggested as supplementary readings. They will be presented during the lecture and uploaded to the reserve collection.</td>
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