

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Economic policy
Course code	27401
Scientific sector	SECS-P/02
Degree	Master in public policies and administration
Semester and academic year	1st semester 2021/2022
Year	1
Credits	6
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	6
Total exercise hours	24 (preparatory course)
Attendance	suggested, but not required

Prerequisites	<p>Students without a background in Economics are strongly suggested to actively attend the "preparatory course" in Economics organized at the beginning of the semester.</p> <p>At the end of the prep course, an exam will be organized, in order to test the basic knowledge of the students. The test is aimed at making students aware of their knowledge. There are no negative consequences in case of "fail", only the student is advised to discuss with the Lecturing Assistant and the Professor how to improve his/her knowledge. In case of "pass with distinction", students are awarded an additional point in the final exam.</p>
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Course page	https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/master-public-sector/course-offering/
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Specific educational objectives	<p>The course refers to the basic educational activities and belongs to the scientific area of Economics.</p> <p>The course gives a general overview of the economic policies pursued by the public sector on a scientific basis.</p> <p>Educational objectives are: acquiring skills to explain economic policies as they vary over time and between countries, as well as developing an understanding of the constraints of implementing economic policies in democratic societies.</p>
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Lecturer	Mirco Tonin , Office E-306, e-mail: Mirco.Tonin@unibz.it, tel.: 0471/013182, https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/35916-mirco-tonin
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SECS-P/02
Teaching language	English
Office hours	please refer to the lecturer's web page
Lecturing assistant	Alessandro Fedele (12 h preparatory course)
Teaching assistant	not foreseen
Office hours	not foreseen
List of topics covered	Size and development of the public sector; Public policy tools; Behavioral public policy; Public goods; Externalities; Political economics; Cost-benefit analysis; Economic policies;
Teaching format	Frontal lectures, exercises, projects, etc.

Learning outcomes	<p>Through this course the students will develop the ability to understand the foundations, the effects and uses of government interventions in the economy.</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding: The students will learn different theories and the empirical evidence regarding the tools and effects of government interventions in the economy.</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding: The students will develop the ability to apply the analytical methods presented to real world economic policy problems</p> <p>Making judgments: The students will develop the ability to assess economic situations, to relate them to concrete problems, and to develop policy recommendations.</p> <p>Communication skills: Through discussions in class, the students will develop the ability to debate economic policy problems using appropriate analytical tools and evidence.</p> <p>Learning skills: Ability to develop learning skills that allow students to continue to study at an advanced level.</p>
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Assessment	Written and project work: written exam with review questions and project report done in groups
Assessment language	English (B1 level required to sit the exam)
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	70% written exam, 30% project report & presentation. 100% written exam for non-attending

	<p>students. Evaluation criteria relevant for both assessments: clarity of answers, mastery of specific terminology, ability to summarize, evaluate, and establish relationships between topics, ability to apply concepts to real-world examples.</p>
Required readings	<p>Public Finance and Public Policy, by Jonathan Gruber, 5th edition – Selected chapters ISBN: 1464143331</p> <p>Economic Policy - Theory and Practice, by Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, Benoît Coeuré, Pierre Jacquet, and Jean Pisani-Ferry – Selected chapters ISBN: 9780195322736</p> <p>Intermediate Public Economics, 2nd edition, by Jean Hindriks and Gareth Myles – Selected chapters ISBN: 9780262018692</p>
Supplementary readings	<p>Additional literature will be given during class</p>