

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Topics in Public Economics
Course code	27409
Scientific sector	SECS-P/03
Degree	LM 63 – Master in Public Policies and Administration
Semester and academic year	1 st semester 2022-23
Year	2 nd year
Credits	6
Modular	no
Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	-
Total exercise hours	-
Attendance	suggested, but not required
Prerequisites	B1 level in English is required to sit the exam The frequency of the economics courses in the LM 63 master program is suggested to properly follow these lectures
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/master-public-policies-administration/
Specific educational objectives	The course refers to the complementary 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.
Lecturer	Steven Stillman office E 3.03, tel 0471 013132, Lecturer's page https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/36390-steven-stillman
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SECS-P/03 (Scienza delle Finanze)
Teaching language	English
Office hours	18
Lecturing assistant	None
Teaching assistant	None
Office hours	18 hours MySNS – Individual timetable Webpage:

	https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13426%2C13543
List of topics covered	Labour Supply; Human Capital and Education; Educational Quality and Competition; Social Insurance; Health Care and Health Insurance; Discrimination, Work and Family; Wage Structure and Inequality; 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>
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Assessment	A midterm and final exam as well as a group presentations. Non-attendees should contact the
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	<p>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	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>The final grade will be a weighted average of the group presentations (10%), class participation (10%), written midterm exam (40%) and the written final exam (40%). Non-attending students and students that reject their midterm grade will be given a longer final that will count for 60%, 80% or 100% of the final grade as applicable.</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.</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.</p>