

Syllabus

Course description

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| Course title | Economics and Public Policy Design M1 Economics of the Public Sector |
| Course code | 27606A |
| Scientific sector | SECS-P/02 |
| Degree | Master in Public Policy and Innovative Governance |
| Semester and academic year | a.y. 2024/2025 Semester: 2. Semester |
| Year | 1 |
| Credits | 6 |
| Modular | Yes |

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| Total lecturing hours | 36 |
| Total lab hours | // |
| Total exercise hours | // |
| Attendance | suggested, but not required |
| Prerequisites | B1 in English to sit the exam |
| Course page | https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/master-public-policy-innovative-governance/course-offering/?academicYear=2024 |

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| Specific educational objectives | <p>The course refers to the typical educational activities and belongs to the scientific area of Economics.</p> <p>The course provides a general overview of scientific contents.</p> <p>It concentrates on the revenue aspects of government, covering topics such as tax incidence, fairness in taxation, tax evasion, and the taxation of consumption, labor, and capital. The curriculum is structured to provide students with a nuanced understanding of tax frameworks and their impact on economic behavior and societal results.</p> <p>Students will develop a deep understanding of theories and tools for assessing economic public policies and their sustainability. They will acquire skills necessary to craft and adapt economic policies to various socio-economic contexts internationally. Additionally, the course will enhance their knowledge of the complex challenges in effective policy implementation, focusing on economic factors that affect policy success and innovation in public governance. This will prepare them for the autonomous learning and critical analysis required for a PhD in public institution policy analysis.</p> |
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| Module 1 | 1 |
| Lecturer | Prof Dr Alexander Moradi Alexander.Moradi@unibz.it Office E208 – Tel +39 0471 013135 https://alexandermoradi.org/ |
| Scientific sector of the lecturer | SECS-P/01 |
| Teaching language | English |
| Office hours | 18, see timetabling. |
| Lecturing assistant | // |
| Teaching assistant | // |
| Office hours | // |
| List of topics covered | Taxation principles; equity and fairness in taxation; taxation and inequality; tax incidence analysis; taxation of consumption, labour and capital; tax evasion and avoidance; taxation for sustainable development. |
| Course outline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principles of Taxation 2. Taxation and Income Distribution 3. Tax incidence analysis 4. Optimal taxation: Consumption, labour and capital 5. Economics of Pension Systems 6. Tax evasion and avoidance. 7. Case studies: Taxation strategies for sustainable development. |
| Teaching format | Lectures, Projects, Workshops. |
| Learning outcomes | <p>Knowledge and understanding Students will acquire advanced techniques and analytical tools to quantitatively understand and interpret public policies, exploring theories and empirical evidence on government interventions in the economy. They will deepen their understanding of the tools required to design sustainable policies, equipping them with the skills needed to analyze and evaluate public institution policies effectively.</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding Students will learn to interpret economic and social trends using data and appropriate economic models, as well as to deploy economic analytical tools. They will gain the ability to apply these models to describe the behavior of economic agents and develop sustainable economic policies across various sectors of interest to businesses and public institutions. Furthermore, they will be adept at interpreting the results of statistical and econometric analyses in contexts relevant to public organizations.</p> <p>Making judgments</p> |

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| | <p>Students will develop the ability to apply their knowledge to interpret broader economic phenomena in their managerial and operational decisions within public administration. They will learn to select data and use appropriate information for designing, implementing, and evaluating innovative public sector projects and policies to improve processes, products, and outcomes. Additionally, they will connect models and empirical evidence in public policy analysis and reflect on the ethical use and sustainability of public resources, considering future generations.</p> <p>Communication skill Through discussions in class, and student presentations students will develop the ability to debate economic policy problems using appropriate analytical tools and evidence.</p> <p>Learning skills Students will learn to identify thematic links and build relationships across various cases within different analytical contexts, systematically categorize new problems, and create suitable taxonomies. They will also gain the ability to develop generalized models from the phenomena they study. These skills allow students to continue to study at an advanced level.</p> |
| <p>Assessment</p> | <p>For Attending Students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation (10%): Students are required to present an article to the class. The presentation should summarize the article's aim, methodology, and main findings, and provide a critical assessment. Project Report (30%): Students must submit a report, not exceeding 1,500 words, that transforms the presentation topic into a structured project format. Written exam (60%): This 60-minute exam comprises multiple-choice and short review questions. <p>For Non-Attending students:</p> <p>Written exam (100%): Multiple choice, review questions and an essay in which students demonstrate their critical thinking.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Project work and classroom presentations are valid for 1 academic year and cannot be carried over beyond that time-frame.</i></p> |
| <p>Assessment language</p> | <p>English</p> |
| <p>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</p> | <p>Presentation: Clarity, content accuracy, organization and structure, depth of understanding and critical thinking, professionalism and poise, visual aids and material,</p> |

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| | <p>effective oral communication, engagement with the audience, response to questions and feedback.</p> <p>Project Report: Clarity, content accuracy, organization and structure, depth of analysis, critical assessment; writing style.</p> <p>Written exam: Accuracy, clarity and depth of answers, comprehension of material, analytical skills, application of concepts, critical thinking.</p> |
| <p>Required readings</p> | <p>Public Finance and Public Policy, by Jonathan Gruber, 5th edition – Chapters 3, 18-22.</p> <p>Economics articles uploaded on OLE.</p> |
| <p>Supplementary readings</p> | <p>Economics articles listed in the appendix of the presentation slides.</p> |