Syllabus
Course description

Course title	**Economic Policy**
Course code	27506 (loaned from course 27600A – LM-63)
Scientific sector	SECS-P/02 – ECON-02/A
Degree	Master in Data Analytics for Economics and Management – LM-DATA (loaned from Master in Public Policy and Innovative Governance – LM-63)
Semester and academic year	1st semester a.y. 2025/2026
Year	1
Credits	6
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	6
Total exercise hours	
Attendance	Attendance is recommended but not mandatory.
Prerequisites	B1 level in English is required to sit the exam. Students without a background in Economics are strongly suggested to actively attend the "preparatory course" in Economics organized at the beginning of the semester. 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.
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/master-data-analytics-economics-management/course-offering/?academicYear=2024

Specific educational objectives	The course refers to the complementary educational activities and belongs to the scientific area of Economics (SECS-P/02 – ECON-02/A). The course gives an overview of the economic policies pursued by the public sector on a scientific basis.

The course is designed to:

a) Develop the skills and knowledge to explain economic policies as they vary over time and between countries and communicate and interact with policymakers, administrators, as well as stakeholders and the general public, ensuring these policies are sustainable socially, economically, and environmentally.

b) Acquire knowledge of the role that economic policy plays in leading towards sustainable development goals, within the institutional framework characterizing democratic societies, including the understanding of instruments essential for economic analysis and decision-making in public institutions.

c) Develop comprehensive knowledge and theoretical tools to evaluate public policies, and critically assess their implementation, sustainability, and effectiveness.

d) Cultivate the autonomy in learning and critical analysis necessary for advanced research and critique within the sphere of public institutions' policy analysis, aiming towards a doctorate level of independent scholarly inquiry.

Lecturer	**Mirco Tonin** e-mail: Mirco.Tonin@unibz.it, Office E 3.06, Tel.: +39 471 013182, https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/35916-mirco-tonin
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SECS-P/02 – ECON-02/A
Teaching language	English
Office hours	18 hours MySNS – My timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=14100
Lecturing assistant	//
Teaching assistant	//
Office hours	//
List of topics covered	Size and development of the public sector; Sustainable Development Principles; Role of public policy towards sustainable development goals; Public goods; Cost-benefit analysis in public project externalities; Innovation, growth, and green transition.

Contents (Course outline)	**1. The Public Sector** • Size and Development of the Public Sector • Understanding Public Policy Frameworks **2. Public Policy Toolbox** • Tools and Strategies in Public Policy • Case Studies and Applications **3. Sustainable Development Principles** • Concepts and History of Sustainable Development • Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) **4. Integrating SDGs into Economic Policy** • Role of Public Policy in Achieving SDGs • Strategies and Challenges in Implementation **5. Local and Global Externalities** • Understanding and Addressing Externalities • Policy Approaches and Solutions **6. Public Goods** • Provision and Management • Cost-Benefit Analysis in Public Projects **7. Innovation Policy** • Technology, Growth, and Green Transition • The Role of Innovation in Sustainable Development
Teaching format	Frontal lectures, exercises, projects, etc.

Learning outcomes	Through this course the students will develop the ability to understand the foundations, the effects, and uses of government interventions in the economy, with a focus on achieving sustainable development goals. **Knowledge and understanding** The students will learn different theories and the empirical evidence regarding the tools and effects of government interventions in the economy. • Students will solidify their economic theoretical foundation, enhancing their capacity to understand and analyze public sector economic phenomena, supporting decision-making processes. • They will consolidate their knowledge of instruments of sustainable policies, critical for analyzing and evaluating public institutions' policies. • A deepened understanding of externalities and innovation policies for technological growth and green

transitions within the public sector.

Applying knowledge and understanding
The students will develop the ability to apply the analytical methods presented to real world economic policy problems.

- Students will apply economic models to describe and predict the behavior of economic agents, to inform policy decisions, providing a foundation for developing sustainable economic policies.
- Ability to develop economic strategies that integrate sustainable practices, ensuring policies are relevant across various sectors and contribute to long-term economic resilience.

Making judgments
The students will develop the ability to assess economic situations, to relate them to concrete problems, and to develop policy recommendations.

- Students will be adept at applying their acquired knowledge to make strategic and operational decisions that address policy challenges in public institutions.
- They will possess the ability to appropriate information critically to conceptualize, implement, and evaluate public sector projects, aiming for innovation and improvement in processes, products, and outcomes.
- The course will enable students to link theoretical models and empirical findings in analyzing unique phenomena relevant to public policy, ensuring their judgments are well-informed and evidence-based.
- Students will be conscious of the ethical and sustainable use of public resources, considering the implications of their decisions on future generations and the associated responsibilities.

Communication skills
Through discussions in class, the students will develop the ability to debate economic policy problems using appropriate analytical tools and evidence.

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- The ability to present complex economic policies and sustainable development concepts clearly and persuasively to diverse stakeholders, from policy

	experts to the general public.
	Learning skills Ability to develop learning skills that allow students to continue to study at an advanced level.

Assessment	Written and project work: written exam with review questions and project report done in groups. **For Attending Students:** • **Team Project Report and Presentation (30%):** Students will collaborate on a comprehensive project report that is relevant to the course's subject matter. This report will be accompanied by a presentation, where each team will articulate their findings and recommendations. • **Written Exam (70%):** The exam will consist of review questions designed to test students' understanding of the course material. Questions will range from theoretical knowledge to application-based scenarios that require critical thinking and synthesis of learned concepts. **For Non-Attending Students:** • **Written Exam (100%):** Non-attending students will take a more extensive written exam.
Assessment language	English

Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	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.
	
	• **Team Project Report:**
	   o Depth and accuracy of content
	   o Integration and application of course concepts to the project topic
	   o Originality and creativity in problem-solving and analysis
	   o Clarity, organization, and professionalism of the written report
	• **Team Presentation:**
	   o Effectiveness of communication and ability to engage the audience
	   o Visual and analytical clarity of presentation

	materials
	o Responsiveness to questions and ability to discuss the project in depth
	• **Written Exam:**
	o Comprehension of course material and key concepts
	o Ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios
	o Critical thinking and analytical skills in responding to review questions
	o Quality of written communication, including structure and articulation of arguments

| **Required readings** | The entrepreneurial state, 10th anniversary edition, by Mariana Mazzucato. Penguin. ISBN: 9780141986104

A collection of articles will be provided at the beginning of the course. |
| **Supplementary readings** | Background material is covered in Public Finance and Public Policy, by Jonathan Gruber, 7th edition – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 ISBN: 1319466923 |

| **SDGs** | The course covers a wide range of SDGs, with a particular emphasis on:
• Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
• Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
• Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns |