

Syllabus

Course description

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| Course title | Economics and politics in the public sector M1 Economics of the public sector – M2 Economic policy |
| Course code | 27061– other students code 27103 (M1)/27104 (M2) Erasmus |
| Scientific sector | SECS-P/01 (M1) – SECS-P/02 (M2) |
| Degree | Master in Economics and Management of the public sector |
| Semester and academic year | 1st semester 2016/2017 (M1 + M2) |
| Year | 1 |
| Credits | 12 (6+6) |
| Modular | Yes |

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| Total lecturing hours | 72 (36 + 36) |
| Total lab hours | |
| Total exercise hours | 18 (preparatory course) |
| Attendance | suggested, but not required |
| Prerequisites | <p>Students without a background in Economics are suggested to attend actively the “preparatory course” in Economics organized at the beginning of the second semester.</p> <p>At the end of the prep course, a final exam will be organized, in order to test the basic knowledge of the students. The test will have no negative consequences, as it is aimed at making aware students of his/her knowledge and to help the students in the choice of the courses to be attended. In case of “fail”, the student could decide with the Lecturing Assistant and the Professor how to improve his knowledge.</p> <p>In case of “pass with distinction”, students are awarded up to an additional point.</p> |
| Course page | http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/progs/master/economics_publicsector/courses/default.html |

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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 Economics and politics in the public sector on a scientific basis.</p> <p>M1: Module 1 discusses the motivations, tools and effects of government intervention</p> <p>M2: Module 2 deals with the political economy of government intervention and with some of the objectives of macroeconomic policy like price stability and steady</p> |
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| | <p>and adequate economic growth</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> |
| Module 1 | M1 Economics of the public sector |
| Lecturer | <p>Mirco Tonin, Office E-306, e-mail: Mirco.Tonin@unibz.it, tel.: 0471/013182, http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/people/StaffDetails.htm?personid=35916&hstf=35916</p> |
| Scientific sector of the lecturer | SECS-P/02 |
| Teaching language | English |
| Office hours | please refer to the lecturer's web page |
| Lecturing assistant | <p>Alessandro Fedele (preparatory course), Office E-201, e-mail: Alessandro.Fedele@unibz.it, tel.: 0471/013298, http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/people/StaffDetails.htm?personid=32469&hstf=32469</p> |
| Teaching assistant | not foreseen |
| Office hours | not foreseen |
| List of topics covered | <p>Size and development of the public sector; scope of government: privatisation, public-private partnerships, nonprofit organisations; incentives, selection and motivation in public organisations;</p> <p>Public goods; externalities; imperfect competition; asymmetric information;</p> <p>Commodity taxation; income taxation; tax evasion;</p> |
| Teaching format | Frontal lectures, exercises, labs, projects, etc. |
| Module 2 | M2 Economic policy |
| Lecturer | <p>Mirco Tonin, Office E-306, e-mail: Mirco.Tonin@unibz.it, tel.: 0471/013182, http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/people/StaffDetails.htm?personid=35916&hstf=35916</p> |
| Scientific sector of the lecturer | SECS-P/02 |
| Teaching language | English |
| Office hours | please refer to the lecturer's web page |
| Lecturing assistant | not foreseen |
| Teaching assistant | not foreseen |

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| Office hours | not foreseen |
| List of topics covered | Electoral competition and voting; lobbying and rent seeking; Fiscal federalism and fiscal competition; international taxation; Public debt; monetary policy; growth; |
| Teaching format | Frontal lectures, exercises, labs, projects, etc. |

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| 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 |
| Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks | 80% written exam, 20% project report 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. |

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| Required readings | <p>Public Finance and Public Policy, by Jonathan Gruber, 5th edition – Selected chapters ISBN-10: 1-4641-4333-1</p> <p>Economic Policy - Theory and Practice, by Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, Benoît Coeuré, Pierre Jacquet, and Jean Pisani-Ferry – Selected chapters</p> |
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| | <p>ISBN: 9780195322736</p> <p>Dixit A. (2002) Incentives and organizations in the public sector," <i>Journal of Human Resources</i>, 37:696-727</p> <p>Francois, P., and Vlassopoulos, M. (2008): Pro-social Motivation and the Delivery of Social Services," <i>CESifo Economic Studies</i>, 54(1): 22-54.</p> |
| Supplementary readings | Additional literature will be given during class |