



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2019

5,262: Public Economics

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (30%)

Decentral - Written examination (50%, 90 mins.)

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[5,262,1.00 Public Economics](#) -- Englisch -- [Lopes da Fonseca Mariana](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Knowledge in intermediate microeconomics (at the level of Microeconomics II) is recommended.

Course content

Public economics is the study of government economic policies. It mainly focuses on efficiency and equity arguments for (and against) government interventions, on important categories of government expenditures, and on how governments should design their tax system in order to finance their expenditures in an efficient and "fair" manner. It covers the following topics:

1. Introduction and motivation
2. Social welfare and the objectives of government
3. Markets, market failures and government interventions
4. Inequality and redistribution
5. Social insurance
6. Externalities and environmental policies
7. Principles of taxation
8. Theory of taxation
9. Tax avoidance and tax evasion
10. Fiscal federalism
11. Behavioral public economics

The course is applied in nature, but builds on microeconomic concepts. It is based on the textbook by Richard Tresch and complemented by discussions on current economic policy issues in Switzerland and elsewhere. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in these discussions.

The course objectives are:

1. To understand the main theoretical arguments relating to government policies
2. To apply microeconomic concepts to evaluate the pros and cons of specific economic policy proposals
3. To present the main insights from an economic policy evaluation in a competent and concise manner

Course structure

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Course literature

Textbook: Tresch, R.W., 2008. Public Sector Economics. Palgrave MacMillan.



Journal and newspaper articles become available on StudyNet (Canvas) during the semester.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (30%)

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Term papers

- Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship.
- The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the APA or MLA standards. The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into the text in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C. (2017), Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien (12th ed., Cornelsen Schweiz).
- For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers both according to the MLA and the APA standard is never optional.
- Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.
- For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B. (2018, Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (6. Auflage), Zürich: Schulthess, or the recommendations of the Law School).

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (50%, 90 mins.)

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Extended Closed Book

The use of aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as notebooks, tablets, PDAs, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

Supplementary aids

None.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Relevant for the exam is all the material covered in the lectures, the slides and the textbook chapters related to the topics listed under "Inhalt/Content."

Examination relevant literature

Textbook: Tresch, R.W., 2008. Public Sector Economics. Palgrave MacMillan, chapters 1-2, 4-8, 12-13, 15-17, and 21-22.

Lecture slides and newspaper and journal articles available on StudyNet (Canvas).



Please note

Please note that this fact sheet alone is binding and has priority over any other information such as StudyNet (Canvas), personal databases or faculty members' websites and information provided in their lectures, etc.

Any possible references and links within the fact sheet to information provided by third parties are merely supplementary and informative in nature and are outside the University of St.Gallen's scope of responsibility and guarantee.

Documents and materials that have been submitted no later than the end of term time (CW51) are relevant to central examinations.

Binding nature of the fact sheet:

- Information about courses and examination time (central/decentral) and examination type starting from the beginning of the bidding on 22 August 2019
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for decentral examinations after the 4th semester week on 14 October 2019
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for central examinations as from the starting date for examination registration on 4 November 2019

Please consult the fact sheet again after these deadlines have expired.