



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

6,300: Public Sector Economics

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,300,1.00 Public Sector Economics](#) -- Englisch -- [Hodler Roland](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None. Knowledge in intermediate microeconomics is helpful, but not necessary, as the course is largely self-contained.

Learning objectives

To understand the main theoretical arguments relating to economic policies. To learn to apply this knowledge to address policy questions in a competent manner (and maybe to get some inspiration for your Bachelor thesis).

Course content

Public sector economics is the study of government economic policies. The first half of the semester covers the fundamentals, i.e., efficiency and equity arguments for (and against) government interventions as well as the design of tax systems. The second half of the semester focuses on current economic/public policy challenges relating to climate change, the aging of the society, the pros and cons of federalism (e.g., when it comes to fighting a pandemic), as well as profit shifting and tax evasion. This course is highly recommended for people interested in economic/public policy, including all those aiming to work on economic/public policy issues in the private sector, the public sector, international organizations, or NGOs.

Course structure

The course consists of eight lectures (one introduction, three on fundamentals and four on policy challenges), an exercise session, two different types of exam, and feedback in the last session.

Course literature

Textbook: Tresch R.W., 2008. Public Sector Economics, Palgrave MacMillan (available in the library, "Skriptekommission" and online bookstores). Selected journal and newspaper articles (available on Canvas).

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in Spring Semester 2021, the course information and examination remains the same with no changes.

- The course is conducted online via the platform Zoom.
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet and/or e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- There are no changes necessary to the course information.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:



- There are no changes necessary to the examination information

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

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 which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., *Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende*, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts 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., *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien*, newest edition respectively).

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. 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.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Voice-over-slides presentations in groups of 1-2

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 which is a published template in StudentWeb.



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Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Relevant for the exam is the material covered in the lectures and the exercise session: efficiency and equity arguments for (and against) government interventions, the design of tax systems, climate policy, social insurances and the aging of the society, the pros and cons of federalism, and profit shifting and tax evasion.

Examination relevant literature

Lecture slides. Textbook: Tresch, R.W., 2008. *Public Sector Economics*. Palgrave MacMillan, chapters 1-2, 4-7, 12-13, 15-17, and 21-22.

Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 28 January 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 14 (Thursday, 8 April 2021).