



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

### 6,300: Public Sector Economics

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (50%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - 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 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 and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of nine lectures (one introduction, four on fundamentals and four on policy challenges), one exercise session, and two different types of exam.

#### Course literature

Textbook: Tresch R.W., 2008. Public Sector Economics, Palgrave MacMillan (recommend, but not strictly necessary; 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 SpS2022, the course information listed above will be changed as follows: The course is conducted online via Zoom. The recordings of the course are available for 30 days. The lecturer informs via StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course. The course content remains unchanged.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows: The written examination are conducted online. The



allowed examination aids and further information are communicated via StudyNet.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (50%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

##### 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, 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

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#### 2. Examination sub part (2/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Voice-over-slides presentations, 1-2 students

##### Examination-aid rule

Presentation in the form of a video / podcast

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the faculty members.

The procurement of the aids as well as ensuring the functionality and fulfillment of the technical requirements is exclusively the responsibility of the students.

##### Supplementary aids

none

##### 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, 27 January 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 11 April 2022).