



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

### 6,300: Public Sector Economics

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (70%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (30%)

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., welfare measurement, market failures, inequality and redistribution, and the design of tax systems. The second half focuses on current economic/public policy challenges relating to climate change, the sustainability of social insurances, national and international tax competition, and how to fight a pandemic. 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

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## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

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

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (70%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Final exam (90 minutes)

##### Examination-aid rule

Closed Book

The use of aids is prohibited as a matter of principle, with the exception of pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and, in case of non-language exams, bilingual dictionaries without any handwritten notes. Any other aids that are admissible must be explicitly listed by faculty members in the paragraph entitled "Supplementary aids" of the course and examination fact sheet; this list is exhaustive.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

##### Supplementary aids

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##### Nature of examination

analog

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Voice-over-slides presentations (1-3 students)

##### Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

##### Supplementary aids

All material is allowed, but communication between groups is prohibited

##### Nature of examination

analog

##### 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: welfare, market failures, inequality and redistribution, the design of tax systems, climate policy, social insurances, federalism and tax competition, and cost-benefit analysis and the COVID pandemic.

## 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, 26 January 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 10 April 2023).