



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

8,260: Public Economics - The Economics of Taxation

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Central - Written examination (60%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: inter-term break

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (25%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (15%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,260,1.00 Public Economics - The Economics of Taxation](#) -- Englisch -- [Keuschnigg Christian](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

A solid knowledge of microeconomics is required.

Learning objectives

- Students acquire state-of-the-art knowledge in public economics;
- Students are able to formulate research questions and adopting appropriate research design for theory and evidence based policy making;
- Students know how to effectively communicate research insights and policy recommendations.

Course content

The lecture aims at developing analytical skills, enabling students to analyze independently public policy challenges. The course equips students with analytical tools required for economic research (e.g. a Master thesis in public economics) that meets contemporary academic standards. Summaries of empirical research and oral presentations in class help students to become professional communicators. Exercises help to apply theory in different contexts.

Taxes should be simple, fair and efficient. How can the tax system be used to achieve a more equitable distribution? How can a government design taxes to preserve incentives and contribute to better economic outcomes in terms of income and welfare? Using applied microeconomic theory, this course provides a state-of-the-art knowledge in public economics, with an emphasis on tax design and tax reform. The course prepares for further PhD studies and policy work in (inter-)national institutions.

The course covers the following topics:

1. Labor supply and marginal costs of public funds
2. The size of government
3. Income taxation and inequality
4. Commodity and environmental taxation
5. Unemployment and the welfare state
6. Savings, public debt and pensions
7. Taxation, investment and corporate finance
8. International taxation and tax competition
9. Quantitative fiscal policy



10. Other topics

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of weekly lectures and self studies.

Course literature

A course reading list will be provided on Canvas and includes original journal articles of empirical literature. We recommend our English manuscript (also provided on Canvas), which is based on an updated version of C. Keuschnigg, 2005, Öffentliche Finanzen: Einnahmepolitik, Tübingen.

Additional course information

Please contact Emiliano Toni (emiliano.toni@unisg.ch) regarding any questions on the course.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Central - Written examination (60%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: inter-term break

Remark

A collection of previews exams will be distributed

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

none.

Nature of examination

analog

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) (25%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

One written summary with a presentation (3 slides)



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

none.

Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (15%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

max 5 Powerpoint slides

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

none

Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

All regulations can be found on the course outline. The written exam (60%) relates to the lecture. One empirical paper must be summarized as written home assignment (25%) and be presented in class (15%)

The written exam covers the following topics:

1. Labor supply and marginal costs of public funds
2. The size of government
3. Income taxation and inequality
4. Commodity and environmental taxation
5. Unemployment and the welfare state
6. Savings, public debt and pensions
7. Taxation, investment and corporate finance
8. International taxation and tax competition
9. Quantitative fiscal policy

There might be small changes during the course. The precise contents are announced at the beginning of the semester and are



continuously updated on Canvas.

Examination relevant literature

See course outline and manuscripts provided on Canvas at the beginning of the course.

The English manuscript is based on C. Keuschnigg, 2005, *Öffentliche Finanzen: Einnahmenpolitik*, Tübingen Mohr, which is currently revised and updated.

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).