

COURSE SYLLABUS

Public Economics - 2

2425-2-E3303M013-T2

Learning objectives

The course aims at providing the key notions to understand the role of the State in market economies. Such a role will be analysed considering, on the one hand, expenditure and welfare policies and, on the other hand, tax policies.

Contents

The course is organized in two parts.

First part: historical and theoretical foundations of the Welfare State (approximately 14 hours).

Second part: objectives and tools of tax policies (approximately 28 hours)

Detailed program

1. Welfare State:

a) history and political aspects:

-the ancient world(in brief); Welfare State in Central Empires; Welfare State in the 20th century

b) theoretical foundations:

-authoritarian foundations and malthusian theories: english poor laws and their developments

-neoclassical equilibrium theory and remedies to market failures regarding socially shared consumption with externalities

-public expenditure, taxation and welfare within societies with conflictual classes: Carl Marx's Critique of the Gotha Programme

c) objectives and tools of the current Welfare state:

-pensions, health and instructions.

2. Taxation policies:
- a) objectives:
 - equity and efficiency in the funding of Welfare State.
 - b) income and wealth taxes:
 - taxes on individual income
 - c) consumption taxes
 - d) domestic tax evasion
 - e) multinationals'aggressive taxation planning

Prerequisites

Microeconomics.
Basic knowledge of calculus.

Teaching methods

38 hours of taught lectures, of which 12 hours online, and 4 hours of interactive lectures.
During interactive lectures open questions and numerical exercises will be discussed.

Assessment methods

Written exam, with an option to take an intermediate test, based partly on open questions and and partly on numerical exercises.

The intermediate test can be taken by all students who exert the option through the e-learning page and will regard the first part of the course and points a) and b) of the second part of the course.

Students who obtain a positive evaluation in the intermediate text will be allowed to take, during normal exam sessions, only the part of the exam referring to points c), d) and e) of the second part. This opportunity will be valid until the last exam session for academic year 2024-2025.

Students who do not obtain a positive evaluation in the intermediate text will take, during normal exam sessions, both parts of the exam.

The final grade will be given by a weighted sum of grades obtained in each of the two parts and of additional points, for a maximum of 4 points, obtained during the interactive lectures by answering to open questions or solving exercises.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

First part: il materiale didattico consiste in dispense e letture che verranno indicate dal docente.

Second part:

Alessandro Santoro, Economia del fisco. Una guida per capire cosa sono le tasse e come potrebbero essere

cambiate. Il Mulino editore, 2025.

Semester

Second semester

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
