UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Public Economics - 1

2526-2-E3303M013-T1

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 includes an initial in-depth historical and theoretical analysis of the role of the State in the economy followed by the illustration of the objectives and tools of contemporary fiscal policies.

Detailed program

1. Historical and theoretical analysis of the role of the State in the economy:
   a) role of the State and of taxes in the classical economists'thought;
   b) the marginalist analysis and market failures.
2. Taxation policies:
   a) personal income tax; equity and efficiency; the chice of the tax base and of tax rates; wealth taxes;
   b) consumption taxes: Vat, efficiency and equity; excises and environmental taxes;
   c) personal income tax and consumption tax evasion: reasons and possible remedies.

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 with the chance for attending students to obtain additional points.

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 concern parts 1a), 1b) and 2a).

Students who obtain a positive evaluation in the intermediate text wil be allowed to take, during normal exam sessions, only the part of the exam referring to points 2b), and 2c). 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 wil 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

Parts 1a) and 1b): lecture notes provided by the teacher on the elearning page.
Parts 2a), 2b) and 2c): Alessandro Santoro, L'economia delle tasse. Cosa sono e come dovrebbero cambiare. Il Mulino, Universale Paperbacks, available in bookshops starting from the mid of february 2025.

Semester

Second semester

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES