

- Faculté des sciences économiques
- www.unine.ch/seco

Public Sector Economics (5ER2028)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en sciences économiques, orientation politique économique	Cours: 4 ph	écrit: 2 h	6

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante:

Prof. Mehdi Farsi
Institute of Economic Research
Rue Abram-Louis Breguet 2, CH-2000 NEUCHÂTEL
+41 (0) 32 718 14 50, Office 1.236 - mehdi.farsi@unine.ch

Objectifs:

This course provides a theoretical perspective of the role of the state in the economy and the responses of individuals and firms to government policies. The main objective is to provide analytical tools to explain various sources of market failure and to understand government interventions in the working of private markets. Microeconomic models will be used to present alternative public policies to overcome market failure as well as the sources of government failure. These theories are used to assess different consequences of government interventions, to identify interventions that are most desirable and to explain why some economic activities are undertaken in the public sector. The course adopts a Problem Based Learning approach and combines theory with examples, discussions and group activities.

Contenu:

The course will cover the following topics:

- Foundations of public economics; equilibrium and efficiency
- Provision of public goods
- Public good experiments
- Externalities and other sources of market failure
- Imperfect competition
- Asymmetry of information
- Public choice and voting

Forme de l'évaluation:

Final grade is based on a 2-hour written during the exam session at the end of the semester.

Retake: 2-hour written exam during the exam session.

With the exception of a simple calculator no documents or connected objects are allowed during the exams. Any violation of these rules will be considered as fraud, leading to the withdrawal of unauthorized items and possibly exam failure.

Documentation:

Main textbooks:

- Intermediate Public Economics, 2nd ed., J. Hindriks & G.D. Myles, 2013. MIT Press.
- Public Microeconomics: Efficiency and Equity in Public Policy. Silvestre, J., 2012. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

Further readings:

- The Microeconomics of Public Policy Analysis, Friedman, Lee S., Princeton University Press, 2002
- Public Sector Economics, Tresch, R.W., 2008. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Policy and Choice: Public Finance Through the Lens of Behavioral Economics. Congdon, W.J., Kling, J.R. & Mullainathan, S., 2011. Brookings Institution.
- Journal articles and extracts made available during the term.

Forme de l'enseignement:

Lectures: 4 hours per week.

Office hours: upon request by e-mail