

- Faculté des sciences économiques
- [www.unine.ch/seco](http://www.unine.ch/seco)

## Public Economics (5ER1014)

| Filières concernées   | Nombre d'heures    | Validation      | Crédits ECTS |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Bachelor en sciences économiques, orientation économie</b>   | <b>Cours: 2 ph</b> | Voir ci-dessous | 3            |
| <b>Bachelor en sciences économiques, orientation management</b> | <b>Cours: 2 ph</b> | Voir ci-dessous | 3            |
| <b>Bachelor en systèmes naturels</b>                            | <b>Cours: 2 ph</b> | Voir ci-dessous | 3            |
| <b>Bachelor of Science en économie et sport</b>                 | <b>Cours: 2 ph</b> | Voir ci-dessous | 3            |
| <b>Pilier principal B A - économie</b>                          | <b>Cours: 2 ph</b> | Voir ci-dessous | 3            |
| <b>Pilier secondaire B A - économie</b>                         | <b>Cours: 2 ph</b> | Voir ci-dessous | 3            |

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

### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

### Equipe enseignante

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### Contenu

This course gives a broad overview of the economic analysis of State interventions in a mixed market economy through public spending, compulsory levies and regulations. Its objectives can be summarized as follows: learning how to delimit the public sector, understanding the rationale for government interventions in market-based economies and why the relative share of the public sector in the economy tends to increase over time, identifying the main sources of financing of State activity as well as their micro and macroeconomic effects, and acquiring the capacity to assess various government interventions in the economy. The course is divided into 6 chapters. Chapter 1 outlines the contours of the public sector before defining its economic functions using Musgrave's classification. Chapter 2 discusses the circumstances where the State is called upon to intervene in the economy as a result of the failure of the pure market mechanism to allocate resources efficiently. Chapter 3 is devoted to the study of the State as the redistributor of income and wealth in the society. Chapter 4 deals with the macroeconomic role of the State, in particular discretionary fiscal policies. Chapter 5 reviews the sources of financing of the public sector by devoting specific attention to taxation and debt-financing as well as their effects on the behavior of economic agents and the well-being of the society. Finally, Chapter 6 deals with selected micro and macroeconomic policy-related topics, inter alia issues related to the long-term growth of the State and the efficiency of the public sector.

### Forme de l'évaluation

Under "normal" (i.e. face-to-face) conditions, grading is based on a 2-hour written exam during the exam session at the end of the semester. Only a non-programmable calculator is authorized. 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.

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

Remote modality (subject to further approval by university authorities): 1-hour (60 minutes), written, on-line and open-book exam during the exam session at the end of the semester.

Exams cover the entire range of subjects taught, including exercises and proposed readings.

### Documentation

The following textbook is the main reference for this course:

Zarin-Nejadan, Milad, Luc Weber and Alain Schönenberger, *Economie et finances publiques*, Paris, Economica, 2017.

Other course materials (lecture notes, journal articles, book extracts, exercises, illustrations) will be provided throughout the semester on the e-platform Moodle.

### Pré-requis

Intermediate-level microeconomics and macroeconomics.

### Forme de l'enseignement

2-hour lecture. The course makes extensive use of interactive teaching, relying on prior readings and active class participation by students.

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## **Public Economics (5ER1014)**

### **Objectifs d'apprentissage**

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Analyse from the economic perspective contemporary issues regarding the public sector
- Discuss the pros and cons of government interventions at micro and macroeconomic levels
- Formulate sound economic policy proposals to remedy specific problems
- Explain the reasons behind the long-term growth of the public sector in OECD countries
- Apply appropriate analytical tools to the study of complex policy-related issues
- Interpret correctly various budgetary and fiscal indicators
- Conceptualise government interventions at micro, meso and macroeconomic levels
- Describe the structure of government outlays and revenues

### **Compétences transférables**

- Apply knowledge to new situations
- Discuss complex issues and interactions
- Carry out critical analyses
- Draw evidence-based conclusions