

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

Public Economics (5ER1014)

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

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

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Prof. Milad ZARIN, Chair of Economics, Institute of Economic Research, A.-L. Breguet 2, CH-2000 Neuchâtel (office 1.238) +41 32 718 1355
milad.zarin@unine.ch ;

Marc BURRI, teaching assistant and PhD candidate, Institute of Economic Research, A.-L. Breguet 2, CH-2000 Neuchâtel (office 1.233) +41 32 718 1347 marc.burri@unine.ch

Contenu

The course is divided into eight chapters. After two introductory chapters highlighting the importance of public economics as a sub-discipline of economics, the statistical delimitation of the public sector and the rationale behind government interventions in market-based economies, the following three chapters delve into the so-called "Musgravian" functions of the State. Chapter 3 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 4 is devoted to government's role as the redistributor of income and wealth in the society. Chapter 5 focuses on the macroeconomic role of the State, in particular through discretionary fiscal policies. The following two chapters are more topical. Chapter 6 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. Chapter 7 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. Finally, chapter 8 concludes by drawing some perspectives on the future evolution of the economic role of the State.

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 (in French) 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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Objectifs d'apprentissage

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

- Analyse contemporary issues regarding the public sector from an economic perspective
- Discuss the pros and cons of government interventions at micro and macroeconomic levels
- Formulate sound public policy proposals to remedy specific problems
- Explain the reasons behind the long-term expansion 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