

Introduction to Public Economics (F710347)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0

Study time 90 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Defloor, Bart

EB21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management](#)

crdts

3

offering

A

[Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China\)](#)

3

A

[Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject India\)](#)

3

A

[Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Japan\)](#)

3

A

[Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Middle East Studies\)](#)

3

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Public Administration and Management](#)

3

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Public Administration and Management](#)

3

A

[Elective Set Public Administration and Management](#)

3

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Public economics, welfare economics, minimal state, allocation, distribution, stabilisation, market failure, externalities, public goods, market power, behavioural economics, inequality, poverty, social cost benefit analysis, valuation of non market goods, consumer surplus, producer surplus, dead weight loss, public revenue and public expenditure, indirect taxation, direct taxation, tax incidence, Pareto optimality, efficiency, policy instruments, public choice, government failure, sustainable development, ecosystem services and natural capital.

Position of the course

This course introduces students of the bachelor of Public Administration and Management with economic arguments for government intervention in the economy: allocative and distributive. The public economic conceptual framework is introduced and allocative, distributive and stabilising motives for intervention are analysed. Apart from that, attention is devoted to the consequences of government intervention and to government failure.

This course is part of the duurzaamheidsleerlijn.

Contents

Arguments for government intervention in the economy (minimal state, allocation, distribution, stabilisation).

Allocation: valuation of non-market goods and welfare analysis of policy measures.

Distribution: measurement of inequality and poverty, distributive policy.

Consequences of policy measures.

Government failure.

Public revenue and expenditure.

Initial competences

Basic concepts of microeconomics.

Final competences

- 1 Be able to define public economic concepts and understand their connections.
- 2 Apply microeconomic and public economic theory to solve concrete policy related problems.
- 3 Understand under which circumstances markets do not function efficiently.
- 4 Understand how poverty and inequality emerge.
- 5 Be able to motivate the arguments for public policy measures.
- 6 Understand the consequences of policy intervention.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures.
- Group assignment. Students evaluate a specific policy problem using scientific literature provided by the lecturer.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Wegwijs in Economie

Indicative price: € 60

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Koen Schoors, Stijn Goeminne, Johan Albrecht, Bruno Merlevede en Bart Defloor

ISBN : 978-9-46393-709-2

Number of Pages : 888

Oldest Usable Edition : 2022

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Additional information: same handbook as in Introduction to microeconomics and introduction to macroeconomics.

Type: Slides

Name: lecture slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Slides : 600

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

Intermediate Public Economics, Myles and Hindriks.

Kernbegrippen van economie, Gregory Mankiw.

Course content-related study coaching

Students can ask questions during the breaks and after the lectures.

Tutoring organised by the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam (50% multiple choice, 50% open questions): 15/20.

Group assignment and presentation: 5/20.

Second session: the student redoes the part for which he or she failed. The part for which the student passed will be transferred to the second session.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic evaluation: 75%

Non periodic evaluation: 25%