Faculty: Iñigo Iturbe-Ormaetxe, office 9, ext. 3227, iturbe@ua.es
Office hours: By appointment
Schedule: Mondays 15:00-18:00

Overview: Welcome to Public Economics. This is a course on the basics of the economics of public intervention. Depending on the time we will cover the topics of Taxation, Social Insurance, Public Goods, Social Security and Education.

Grading: Presentations, short paper, participation in class.

Useful General References


Gruber, J., Public Finance and Public Policy, Worth Publishers, 2004 (undergraduate text)

Myles, G., Public Economics, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995


Stiglitz, J., Economics of the Public Sector. 2nd Ed. New York: Norton, 1988 (undergraduate text)

I will also publish classnotes for the lectures in the website of the course. You may also find interesting Raj Chetty’s classnotes at Harvard: (http://obs.rc.fas.harvard.edu/chetty/public_lecs.html)
Emmanuel Saez (Berkeley) has also very interesting classnotes: (http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~saez/course/course.html)
Schedule and Readings (Required readings are marked with *)

Weeks 1-3: Taxation


Atkinson and Stiglitz, Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14.


Myles, Chapters 4, 5, 7, and 8.


Saland, Chapters 1-9.


**Weeks 4-5: Social Insurance**


**Weeks 6-7: Public Goods**


Weeks 7-8: Social Security


Myles, Chapter 14.


Stiglitz, Chapter 14.

**Weeks 9-10: Education**


Almost every economic intervention occurs through government policy (i.e., involves public economics) via two channels: Price intervention: taxes, welfare, social insurance, public goods Regulation: min wages, FDA regulations (25% of products consumed), zoning, labor laws, min education laws, environment. Government directly employs one sixth of U.S. workforce. The Department’s Institute for Public Economics had another busy year, and Bob Ascah, the Institute’s Director, provides an excellent summary of its activities later in this Newsletter. The Department’s Canadian Building Energy End-use Data and Analysis Centre (CBEEDAC) also had a very productive year, and its activities are summarized later in this Newsletter as well. Prior to joining the University of Alberta in 2012, he served on the Economics faculties at Indiana University Bloomington and at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Tilman is a microeconomist with research interests in public economics, political economy, the economics of discrimination, and network economics. Political Economics. Fall 2012. Professor: Konstantin Sonin, office 922 (2), email: ksonin(at)nes.ru. We will cover basics of political economics such as models of Downsian political competition, parliamentary decision making, special interests and informative lobbying, and discuss their usefulness in understanding political processes such as recent presidential and parliamentary. Political Economy 105:752-769. Ferejohn, J. (1996) "Incumbent performance and electoral control," Public Choice 50:5-26. (1986). Candidates with Identity.