

# Course Descriptions Bachelor 2020-2021

Course Title	Public Economics																														
Course Code	EBC2012																														
ECTS Credits	6,5																														
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades																														
Period	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Start</th> <th>End</th> <th>Mon</th> <th>Tue</th> <th>Wed</th> <th>Thu</th> <th>Fri</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>26-10-2020</td> <td>11-12-2020</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	2	26-10-2020	11-12-2020	X			X															
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Level	Intermediate																														
Coordinator	Max Löffler For more information:m.loeffler@maastrichtuniversity.nl																														
Language of instruction	English																														
Goals	The goals of this course are to (i) acquire a structured insight into the important role of the state in modern market economies, (ii) learn about the functioning and performance of the state and its interactions with markets, and (iii) understand and critically reflect upon recent developments and discussions concerning issues of the public sector like inequality, taxation, or climate protection.																														
Description	<p>PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHOD(S) USED IN THIS COURSE IS WITH RESERVATION. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE IS BASED ON THE COURSE SETUP PRIOR TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE CRISIS, COURSE COORDINATORS MAY BE FORCED TO CHANGE THE TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS USED. THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEACHING/ASSESSMENT METHOD(S) WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE COURSE SYLLABUS.</p> <p>Public economics is the study of the role of government in the economy. It involves answering the following four broad questions: When should the government intervene in the economy? How might the government intervene? What is the effect of those interventions on economic outcomes? Why do governments choose to intervene in the way that they do? The topics include (i) taxation, redistribution, inequality, poverty, and fairness, (ii) market failures such as incomplete information, public goods, and externalities, as well as (iii) political decision-making and elections. These topics will be analyzed from a normative (welfare economic) as well as from a positive (explanatory) perspective, with emphasis on the relevance and limitation of traditional economic theory.</p>																														
Literature	Textbook: Jean Hindriks and Gareth D. Myles (2013), Intermediate Public Economics, second edition, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.																														
Prerequisites	Students who enroll in this course should have knowledge and understanding of mathematics and microeconomics (in particular game theory, industrial organization, general equilibrium theory), at a level comparable to the second year economics course microeconomics. Exchange students need economics as a major and an advanced level of English to enroll in this course.																														
Teaching methods	PBL / Lecture																														
Assessment methods	Participation / Written Exam / Presentation																														
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click <a href="http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM">http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM</a>																														
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