

# Course Descriptions Exchange 2020-2021

Course Title Public Economics  
 Course Code EBC2012  
 ECTS Credits 6,5  
 Assessment Whole/Half Grades

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	26-10-2020	11-12-2020	X			X	

Level Intermediate

Coordinator Max Löffler For more information: [m.loeffler@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto: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 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.

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.

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 <http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM>

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics	Year 2 Compulsory Course(s)
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Emerging Markets	Year 2 Elective Course(s)
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Emerging Markets	Year 3 Elective Course(s)
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics and Management of Information	Year 2+3 Elective Course(s)
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Core Course(s) - Maj Micro
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Economics Elec(s) - Maj Accounting
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Economics Elec(s) - Maj Finance
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Economics Elec(s) - Maj Inf Mgmt
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Economics Elec(s) - Maj Marketing
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Economics Elec(s) - Maj Org
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Economics Elec(s) - Maj SCM
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Economics Elec(s) - Maj Strategy
SBE Exchange Bachelor	Bachelor Exchange Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Bachelor Exchange Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Bachelor Courses