

Syllabus

Elective course for PhD students

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| Name of subject: | Public Economics |
| NEPTUN code: | GTGVO4000A |
| Nr. of classes/semester: | 2+0 |
| Credits: | 4 |
| Teaching staff: | Zoltán Bartha, PhD, zoltan.bartha@ekon.me, A/4 418 |
| Place of classes: | Building A4, Room 421B |
| Department: | Institute of Economic Theory and Methodologys |
| Semester: | Autumn |
| Course objective: | The main objective is to develop the students' intuition about the working of an economy with government intervention, and to help them develop theories to describe it. |
| Assessment: | PPT presentation and final essay |

| Course structure | |
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| 30 September 8:00-11:30 | Introduction of the students and the main topics The agenda of public economics - why is it important, how can it be used Considerations of Behavioural economics (pp 51-80) |
| 30 October 8:00-11:30 | Theories of the public sector (pp 119-138) Public goods (pp 147-182) Externalities (pp 223-248) Asymmetric information (pp 297-336) |
| 22 November 8:00-11:30 | Political economy Voting (pp 345-381) Rent-seeking (pp 387-414) Inequality (pp 457-496) |
| 22 November 12:30-16:00 | Key problems Fiscal competition (pp 665-694) International taxation (pp 703-741) Social security (pp 775-802) Climate policy (pp 895-940) |

| Required reading |
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| Jean Hindriks & Gareth D. Myles: Intermediate Public Economics. Second Edition. The MIT Press, Cambridge, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-265-01869-2 |

| Suggested reading |
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| Tim Harford: The Undercover Economist. Little-Brown, 2005. ISBN: 0-19-518977-9 Tim Harford: The Logic of Life: The Rational Economics of an Irrational World. Little-Brown, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-316-02756-4 Bryan Caplan: The myth of the rational voter. Why democracies choose bad policies. Princeton University Press, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-691-12942-6 Nariman Behravesch: Spin-free economics. McGraw-Hill 2009. ISBN: 978-0-07-154903-5 |

| Student tasks |
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| PPT presentation: |

- Students should pick a topic from the 11 key ideas included in the syllabus, and prepare a ~30-minute presentation on the topic
- The presentation should include the key concepts concerning the topic, the historical context when the theory was developed, practical implementations of the theory, and preferably some personal comments
- Topics are to be presented on the day they are listed in the class schedule
- The presentation is followed by class discussion

Final essay:

- Topic: a summary of the presentation prepared during the semester
- The task of the student is to summarize the key concepts of the chosen topic, point out the possible practical applications, and to reflect on the suggestions that came up during the class discussion of the topic
- Length: 5-8 pages
- Deadline: 10 January (the number of max points decrease with each day of delay)
- To be sent electronically to zoltan.bartha@ekon.me

| Assessment |
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| <p>Classroom participation: max. 5 points</p> <p>Presentation: max. 25 points</p> <p>Final essay: max. 10 points</p> <p>Grades: 0-19 points – Fail (1); 20-24 points – Pass (2); 25-29 points – Medium (3); 30-34 points – Good (4); 35-40 points – Excellent (5)</p> |

Miskolc, August 31, 2019