



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## ECO 392 Public Economics

### Winter 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This course makes an introduction of public economics and finance on taxes and transfers. The main topics include taxes, political economy and public goods such as education, health care, employment insurance and pensions, social insurance and welfare programs. Moreover, students will also discuss equity and efficiency effects. After learning this course, students are expected to comprehend and evaluate the budgetary activities of the government.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Learn some fundamental concepts and theories of the theories and concepts of public economics;
2. Develop comprehension of how public goods have influences on our lives;
3. Apply the principles of economics to solve the economic questions;
4. Describe the impact of taxes on the public, business firms, and the government.

### **PREREQUISITES**

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ECO 205 Microeconomic Theory

### **GRADING**

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
2 Assignments	20 Points



2 Quizzes	20 Points
Final Paper	20 Points
Midterm Exam	15 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

### COURSE MATERIALS

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**Required Texts:**

Raghbendra Jha, *Modern Public Economics*, Second Edition, Taylor and Francis, 2009.

**Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

### COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Introductory Public Economics Topic 2: Externalities: Problems and Solutions Topic 3: Public Goods Topic 4: Cost-Benefit Analysis <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment #1
Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Political Economy Topic 6: Education Topic 7: Health Insurance Topic 8: Income Distribution and Welfare Programs <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz #1



Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Social Insurance Topic 10: Social Security Topic 11: Unemployment Insurance Topic 12: Disability Insurance <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment #2 Midterm Exam
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Taxation: How it Works and What it Means Topic 14: Tax Incidence Topic 15: Tax Inefficiencies and their Implications for Optimal Taxation Topic 16: Taxes on Labor Supply <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz #2
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Taxes on Savings Topic 18: Fundamental Tax Reform and Consumption Taxation Topic 19: Issues in the Canadian Public Policy Topic 20: Canadian Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations <b>Assessments:</b> Final Paper Final Exam

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.



## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:



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Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.