

public economics

NOVA SBE
undergraduate program
(*licenciatura*)
spring 2025

public economics: instructors

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OH: Th, 5pm, B108 (and by
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OH: by email appointment

Practical sessions began this week!

public economics: grading

Assignments	25%
Midterm (compulsory) Apr 4th, 2pm	25%
Final Exam Jun 4th, 2.30pm	50%
Note: minimum grade of 8.0 in the Final Exam	
<i>Resit Exam: Jun 27th, 8.30am</i>	<i>100%</i>

public economics: grading

There will be three **assignments** – **two group assignments and one individual assignment.**

- Groups are made up of 2 or 3 students
- the composition of the group must be submitted on Moodle by **Feb 14th**
- Group assignment 1 (25% of assignment grade) will be made available on Moodle on Feb 18th and is due on **Feb 25th**
- Group assignment 2 (25% of assignment grade) will be made available on Mar 11th and is due on **Mar 18th**
- Individual assignment 3 (essay of up to 3 pages – 50% of assignment grade) will be made available on May 6th and is due on **May 20th**

public economics:

resources

Readings

Main:

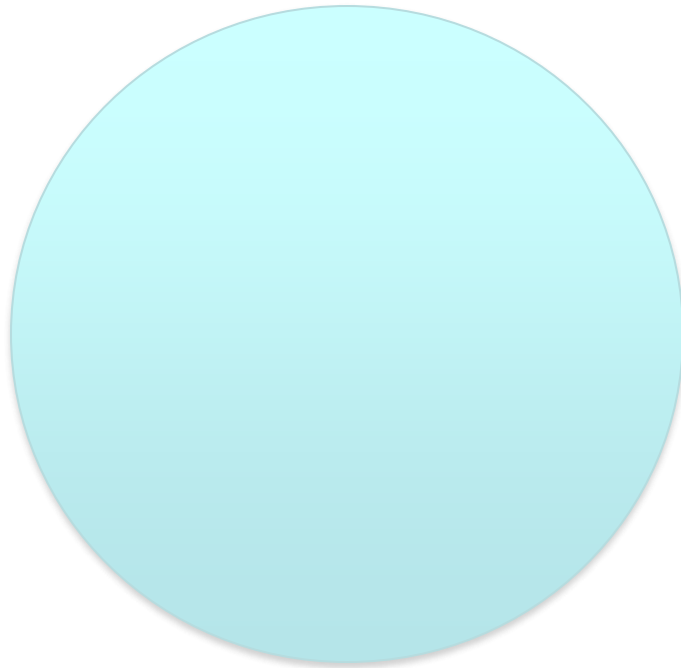
- Jonathan Gruber, *Public Finance and Public Policy*, Worth Publishers

Additional:

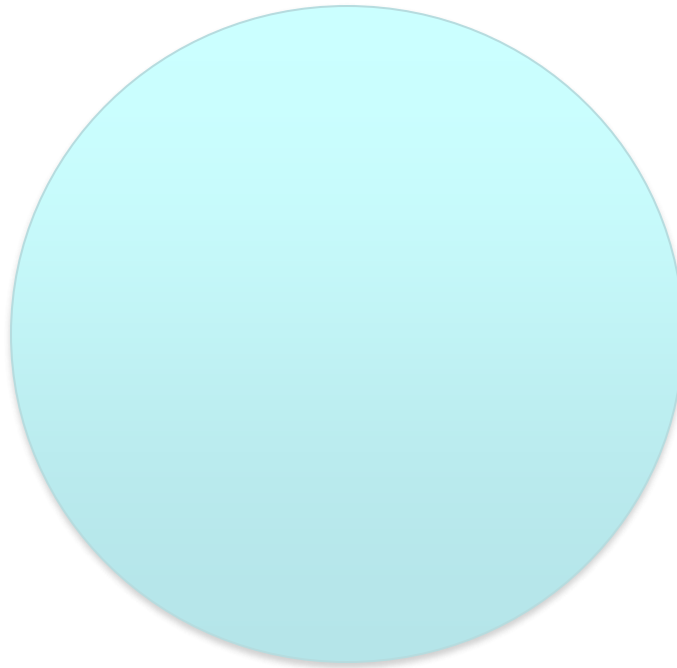
- William Thomson (2007), '*Fair Allocation Rules*', Rochester Center for Economic Research Working Paper 539.

Moodle Enrollment Key: publicecon*

public economics: syllabus



public economics: syllabus



what's optimal?

optimality criteria:

efficiency

fairness?

public economics: syllabus

should you pay more tuition?

should the government provide health insurance?

should workfare be preferred to welfare?

public economics:

syllabus

- 1 Introduction: the goals of government intervention (Ch 1)
- 2 Redistribution and Fairness
 - 2-1 Utility-based fairness criteria (Ch 2)
 - 2-2 Preference-based fairness criteria (Thomson)
- 3 Externalities and Public Goods
 - 3-1 Externalities (Ch 5-6)
 - 3-2 Public Goods (Ch 7)
 - 3-3 Mixed Goods (Ch 11)
 - 3-4 Collective decision-making (Ch 9)

public economics:

syllabus

- 4 Social Insurance
 - 4-1 Benefits and Costs of Insurance (Ch 12)
 - 4-2 Social Security (Ch 13)
 - 4-3 Unemployment Insurance and Poverty-Alleviation Programs (Ch 14, 17)
 - 4-4 Health Insurance (Ch 15)
- 5 Taxation
 - 5-1 Equity implications of taxation (Ch 19)
 - 5-2 Efficiency implications of taxation (Ch 20)