



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

6,300: Public Sector Economics

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written examination, Digital, Individual work individual grade (100%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,300,1,00 Public Sector Economics](#) -- English -- [Hodler Roland](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None. Knowledge in intermediate microeconomics is helpful, but not necessary, as the course is largely self-contained.

Learning objectives

Students will understand the main theoretical arguments relating to economic policies.

Students will be able to apply this knowledge to address policy questions in a competent manner (and maybe to get some inspiration for your Bachelor thesis).

Course content

Public sector economics is the study of government economic policies. The first half of the semester covers the fundamentals, i.e., welfare measurement, market failures, inequality and redistribution, and the design of tax systems. The second half focuses on current economic/public policy challenges relating to climate change, the sustainability of social insurances, national and international tax competition, and and special interest politics.

This course is highly recommended for people interested in economic/public policy, including all those aiming to work on economic/public policy issues in the private sector, the public sector, international organizations, or NGOs.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of nine lectures (one introduction, four on fundamentals and four on policy challenges), one exercise session, and a final exam.

Course literature

Textbook: Tresch R.W., 2008. Public Sector Economics, Palgrave MacMillan (recommended, but not strictly necessary; available in the library, "Skriptekommission" and online bookstores).

Selected journal and newspaper articles (available on Canvas).

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/1)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Written examination
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written exam
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	100%
Duration	90 mins.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Final exam

Examination-aid rule

Closed Book

The use of aids is prohibited as a matter of principle, with the exception of pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and, in case of non-language exams, bilingual dictionaries without any handwritten notes. Any other aids that are admissible must be explicitly listed by faculty members in the paragraph entitled "Supplementary aids" of the course and examination fact sheet; this list is exhaustive.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

Supplementary aids

The examination will be conducted as a digital examination with the following admissible media:

- **Private notebook** (compulsory) – no tablets!
- **Mains adapter** (compulsory)
- External computer mouse (optional)
- External computer keyboard (optional)

We would like to point out explicitly that the examination cannot be taken with tablets/iPads.

You will need the following for the examination:

- Appliance and system requirements: [cf. StudentWeb](#)
- Special software: [LockDown Browser](#)



- HSG log-in including access modalities
- WLAN – operational access to Eduroam

Please make sure that

- all the updates have been carried out before the examination.
- In the run-up to digitally conducted examinations, technical tests (mock examinations without grades) are carried out. Participation is urgently required!
- You yourself are responsible for the perfect working order of your appliance, [cf. also StudentWeb](#).
- Keyboard stickers in the language in which the examination is conducted (such as English, German, as well as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, etc. in language examinations) are permitted. The stickers must be identical with the original characters of the language concerned.

Any use of additional appliances that are not listed above will be strictly prohibited throughout the examination.

Any necessary actions with another software or additional appliances require the express prior approval of the persons in charge of the examination and are only permitted under supervision.

Any infringement of these rules of conduct may be sanctioned as an infringement of the rules of the University.

Examination content

Relevant for the exam is the material covered in the lectures and the exercise session: welfare, market failures, inequality and redistribution, the design of tax systems, climate policy, social insurances, federalism and tax competition, , and special interest politics.

Examination relevant literature

Lecture slides.

Textbook: Tresch, R.W., 2008. Public Sector Economics. Palgrave MacMillan, chapters 1-2, 4-7, 12-13, 15-17, and 21-22.



Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 13 (Monday, 25 March 2025) are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 23 January 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 17 March 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 14 (Monday, 31 March 2025);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before ending with de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 07 April 2025).