



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

8,286: Selected Topics in Swiss Public Finance

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

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

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,286,1.00 Selected Topics in Swiss Public Finance](#) -- English -- [Schaltegger Christoph](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Intermediate knowledge of public economics.

Learning objectives

Students will learn to understand key topics in public economics and how they are linked to economic policy issues. In addition, the course intends to advance students' development as applied economists by providing training in the knowledge transfer from scientific debate to policy solutions. While methodological concepts are important to understand the evidence on policy evaluation, they are not introduced for the sake of discussions on inference or modelling.

Course content

This is an advanced course in public sector economics whose purpose is to study the role of government in the economy. It covers basic issues in the treatment of externalities, optimal tax design, social insurance, fiscal sustainability and fiscal federalism with an emphasis on practical relevance and empirical evidence. Topics include public goods and externalities, efficiency costs and incidence of taxation, income taxation, labor supply responses to taxation, retirement policies, (re-)distribution of income, social mobility, fiscal and debt policy, budget rules and tax competition. The course specifically highlights and discusses Swiss evidence and experiences on these topics

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course will be taking place in weekly sessions in form of a lecture.

Course literature

The bibliography is available in the lecture notes provided at the beginning of the course.

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	Analog
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

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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

none

Examination content

The examination will take place as a decentral written examination (with defined exam duration) and accounts for 100 % of the grade. Topics include public goods and externalities, efficiency costs and incidence of taxation, income taxation, labor supply responses to taxation, retirement policies, (re-)distribution of income, social mobility, fiscal and debt policy, budget rules, and tax competition.

Examination relevant literature

Lecture notes and mandatory readings as indicated in the provided bibliography (available at the beginning of the course).



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).