

COURSE CONTENT

Course Coordinator	Akshar Saxena
Course Code	HE2021 / HE3022
Course Title	Public Economics
Pre-requisites	HE1001 Microeconomics I/ HE9091 Principles of Economics/ HE5091 Principles of Economics/ AB0901 Principles Of Economics: A Singapore Perspective
No of AUs	3
Contact Hours	39 hours (2 hours lecture and 1 hour tutorial per week)

Course Aims

This course aims to study the role of government in addressing market failures, within social domains such as education, healthcare, and retirement financing, through policies like taxation and subsidies. The course is for students interested in topics such as taxation, education, healthcare financing, government budgets, economic efficiency, and equity. The course prepares you for a career in government (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Central Provident Fund), private sector (policy think tanks and consultancies addressing and advising on market failures), and academia.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain, using mathematical and graphical tools, the core concepts of public economics such as externalities, taxes, subsidies, market efficiency, tax incidence, and redistribution.
2. Conduct evaluation of government policies by calculating the efficiency losses and redistributive effects.
3. Debate and critique current and proposed government policies based on ethical and empirical principles of public economics.

Course Content

1. Market efficiency and failures
2. Market power
3. Externalities and public goods
4. Healthcare
5. Retirement income provision
6. Education
7. Redistribution
8. Tax incidence
9. Tax efficiency
10. Personal income taxation
11. Corporate taxation
12. Government budgets

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

Continuous Assessment :	<u>100%</u>
Total :	<u>100%</u>

Reading and References

Following are the *recommended* textbooks for understanding basic principles. The instructor will complement the basic analysis with local policy examples and advances in current literature.

[G4] Gruber, Jonathan. Public Finance and Public Policy, 4th Edition or newer

[S3] Stiglitz, Joseph. Economics of the Public Sector, 3rd Edition or newer

Course Instructors

Instructor	Office Location	Email
Akshar Saxena	SHHK 04-38	aksharsaxena@ntu.edu.sg

Planned Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	ILO	Readings/ Activities
Week 1	Introduction and overview Market efficiency and failures	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 2	Externalities and Public Goods	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 3	Healthcare	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 4	Retirement Income Provision	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 5	Education	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 6	Redistribution and Inequality	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 7	Midterm Group Presentations	1-3	Nil
RECESS WEEK			
Week 8	Tax incidence and Efficiency	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 9	Forms of taxation: Personal income taxation	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 10	Forms of taxation: Capital taxation	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 11	Forms of taxation: Corporate taxation	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 12	Government budgets: Taxes and benefits	1-3	Lecture notes
Week 13	Final Project Presentations	1-3	Nil