



LUND
UNIVERSITY

School of Economics and Management

NEKP51, Economics: Advanced Public Economics, 7.5 credits *Nationalekonomi: Avancerad offentlig ekonomi, 7,5 högskolepoäng* Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economics on 2012-10-16 and was last revised on 2019-11-05. The revised syllabus applies from 2020-01-20, spring semester 2020.

General Information

This is a single subject master course in economics. The course is either obligatory or optional within a number of master programmes at Lund University.

Language of instruction: English

Teaching may be in Swedish if all registered students have a good knowledge of Swedish.

Main field of studies

Economics

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Students shall:

- have a deep understanding of the motives for and against government involvement,
- be able to apply economic tools analysing voluntary and socially efficient provision of such public expenditures as spending on public goods, club goods, social insurance, and transfers,
- possess a deep understanding of the behavioural responses of taxation and optimal taxation theory and the trade-offs between efficiency and equity,
- be able to analyze the incidence of taxation in a partial as well as general equilibrium setting,

- understand how collective decisions are made and problems involved in collective decision making as well as its consequences for democracy and the size of government,
- possess a good understanding of fiscal federalism and the arguments for decentralisation versus centralisation of public expenditures and taxes,
- be able to understand and analyse the implications and limitations of globalisation on taxation and how to address taxation in a global and dynamic setting,
- understand and reason around the political and institutional aspects of public expenditures and taxation, in particular in a public choice framework.

Competence and skills

Students shall:

- have the ability to independently apply economic theory to analyse the motives for and against government involvement,
- be able to independently evaluate fiscal policies,
- have the ability to analyse the relationship between the institutional setup and fiscal outcome,
- communicate and explain their analyses and conclusions clearly and unambiguously.

Judgement and approach

Students shall have developed the ability to pursue further studies in the subject and should be able to search for and evaluate information with a high degree of independence. Students shall also have developed the ability to individually write a paper at the master level.

Course content

The course provides an advanced, organised, and comprehensive discussion of theoretical and empirical research in public economics. The course focuses on the relationship between the government and the market and arguments for and against government involvement. The course will cover a wide range of the many critical decisions policy makers face regarding both the expenditure side and the financing of the public sector, as well as the implications of these on individuals' and firms' behaviour and the overall economy. Topics covered include, among other things, provision of public goods, externalities, income distribution, social and public choice, fiscal federalism, optimal taxation theory and the trade-off between efficient and equitable taxation, and tax incidence. Special attention is given to globalisation and demographic issues as well as institution economics.

Course design

1. Teaching: Tuition consists of lectures and seminars.

Assessment

1. Examination: The examination consists of assignments and a written examination covering the reading materials and lectures. Each part of the examination must be passed. Written exams take place at the end of the course. There will be further opportunities for examination close to this date. Other forms of examination may be used to a limited extent.
2. Limitations on the number of examination opportunities: –

The University views plagiarism and other academic dishonesty very seriously, and will take disciplinary action against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specified period.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

1. Grading: Grade (Definition), Points or percentage out of maximum points, Characteristic
 - A (Excellent), 85–100, A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
 - B (Very good), 75–84, A very good result with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
 - C (Good), 65–74, The result is of a good standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
 - D (Satisfactory), 55–64, The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.
 - E (Sufficient), 50–54, The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought, but not more.
 - U (Fail), 0–49, The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought. Students have to receive a grade of E or higher in order to pass a course.
2. Weighting grades from different parts of the course: –
3. Grading scales for different parts of the course: –

Entry requirements

At least 90 ECTS-credits in economics are required.

Further information

1. Transitional regulations: –
2. Limitations in the period of validity: –
3. Limitations: –
4. Similar courses: The course partly overlaps with NEKN52 Public Finance and NEKN53 Topics in Public Economics.
5. Limitations in renewed examination: –

Subcourses in NEKP51, Economics: Advanced Public Economics

Applies from H13

1201 Advanced Public Economics, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A