

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

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| <b>Academic School / Department:</b> | Richmond Business School                             |
| <b>Programme:</b>                    | BSc Economics and Finance with Combined Studies      |
| <b>FHEQ Level:</b>                   | 6  |
| <b>Course Title:</b>                 | Public Economics                                     |
| <b>Course Code:</b>                  | ECON 6102  |
| <b>Total Hours:</b>                  | 160 (Lev 6) (4 US Credits)                           |
| Timetabled Hours:                    | 45   |
| Guided Learning Hours:               | 15   |
| Independent Learning Hours:          | 100  |
| <b>Credit</b>                        | 16 UK CATS credits<br>8 ECTS credits<br>4 US credits |

**Course Description:**

This is a course in theoretical and applied public economics using microeconomic theory. The course addresses the theoretical analysis of market failure, public finance, taxation and expenditure systems in modern economies and discusses philosophical issues of economic welfare. Inequality, social mobility, and welfare frameworks are part of this course.

**Prerequisites:**

ECON 4101 Introduction to Economics and Finance AND  
70 Credits

**Aims and Objectives:**

This a course that has a twofold objective. It attempts to give a theoretical but also applied public economic view using microeconomic models. The distribution of resources and the market failures that lead to government interventions are a main part of this class.

Students will get familiar with concepts such as efficiency, equity, redistribution, public finance, taxation and transfer policies. Realizing deeper the role of the state intervening in the economy is a key component of understanding better how societies and markets operate.

**Programme Outcomes:**

A6(i), A6(ii), A6(iii), B6(i),C6(ii), C6(iii), D6(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

| Course Learning Outcomes  | Programme Outcomes |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Demonstrate the ability to get a deeper understanding of the critical issues and challenges relevant to public economics.      | A6 (i)             |
| 2. Develop a systematic understanding of welfare theorems and Market Power.   | A6 (ii)            |
| 3. Learn to identify the nature of market failures and contrast different economic perspectives on the role of the public sector. | A6 (iii)           |
| 4. Demonstrate a practical understanding inequality and the various measures to judge the impact on society.                      | B6 (i)             |
| 5. Develop basic analytical skills to evaluate public policies and dilemmas.  | C6 (ii)            |
| 6. Ability to compare various public economics theories and communicate the differences.  | C6 (iii) & D6 (i)  |

**Indicative Content:**

- Market Failure and the Role of the Government
- Social Choice: Efficiency and Equity
- State intervention and Public policy theories
- Social Preferences and redistribution
- Public Good and Externalities
- Welfare programmes
- Inequality, social mobility
- Taxation systems and optimal taxation
- Fiscal budgeting and modern discussions

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

**Teaching Methodology:**

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

**Indicative Text(s):**

Gruber, J. (2022) *Public finance and public policy*. 7<sup>th</sup> edn, international edn. New York: Worth Publishers, Macmillan Learning.

Stiglitz, J.E., Rosengard, J.K. (2015) *Public Sector Economics*. 4th edn. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-92522-7 Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-92522-7

Rosen, H. and Gayer, T. (2014) *Public Finance*. 10<sup>th</sup> edn. USA: McGraw-Hill.

Stiglitz, J.E., Rosengard, J.K. (2015) *Public Sector Economics*. 4th edition, New York: W.W.

**Journals**

Journal of Public Economics.

American Economic Review.

Econometrica.

Journal of Political Economy.

Quarterly Journal of Economics.

Review of Economic Studies.

**Websites**

Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS). Available at: <https://ifs.org.uk/> (Accessed: November 2024).

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Available at: <https://www.nber.org/> (Accessed: November 2024).

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/en.html> (Accessed: November 2024).

See syllabus for complete reading list.

**Change Log for this CSD:**

| Nature of Change | Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB) | Change Actioned by Registry Services |
|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| First Edition    | Nov 2024                                     |                                      |
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