



ECP 3410

Introduction to Public Economics

Section: U01

In Person

Fall Term 2025

Course Meeting Information

Class meeting times	
Day:	MW
Time:	11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Location:	CASE 134

Professor Information

Ji Gu

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: jgu@fiu.edu

Response Time: 2 business days

Phone: 305-348-2095

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM and 2 PM to 3 PM

Office Location: DM 312

Department or Academic Unit: Economics

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Prerequisite: ECO 2023

Course Description and Purpose

This course focuses on the role of the government in the economy. The goal is to understand the reasons for government intervention in the economy, and analyzing the direct and indirect effects of possible government policies. The course covers topics such as externalities, political economy, public goods, social insurance and taxation.

Textbook and Course Materials

PUBLIC FINANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Jonathan Gruber

Publisher: Worth Publishers

Publication Date: March 2, 2022

Copyright Date: March 2, 2022

ISBN 10: 1319281109

ISBN 13: 9781319281106

Panther Book Pack

The Panther Book Pack rental program provides your required print and digital course materials at a flat rate of \$20 per undergraduate credit hour. When you registered for your classes this session, you were notified via email of the required course materials that are included in the Panther Book Pack.

Make sure to review the pricing for all materials across your classes this semester and compare the cost to the Panther Book Pack flat rate. If the Panther Book Pack is not your best option, you may opt out up to three days after the add/drop deadline. The deadline to opt back into the Panther Book Pack is also three days after the add/drop deadline.

If you do not opt out of the Panther Book Pack rental program, you will be charged \$20 per undergraduate credit hour for which you are registered and the course materials will be reserved in your name. For more details and to learn how to access your course materials, visit onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Student learning outcomes allow faculty to assess the level of proficiency in content knowledge and skills that their students acquire in a course.

If the objective meets a special designation, you will see the code after the objective:

University Core Curriculum: UCC

Gordon Rule Writing: GRW

Global Learning: GL

Civic Literacy: CL

- Explain the basic theories and tools of public economics
- Analyze the system of taxation and redistribution
- Describe market failures and externalities

- Understand the government provision of public goods
- Comprehend how social insurance works

Expectations of the Course

Attendance/Participation

From my past experience, students who attended classes did well in the end. For that reason, you are expected to attend every lecture. There will be in-class activities that count toward your final grades.

Course Layout

We will finish 4 modules. There is a total of 3 exams.

Late Work Policy

No late submissions will be accepted. Please plan on being able to submit with ample time to handle technical glitches.

Make-up Policy

Excused absences include illness, serious family emergencies, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved. If you miss an exam due to the above reasons, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to schedule a makeup exam.

Course Communication

Announcements in this course will be sent via the Canvas Inbox and email. Please check your Canvas Inbox and emails on a regular basis.

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement
- Core Principles of This Course
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Academic Misconduct Statement

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic

conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

AI Policy

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all assignments should be prepared by the student.

Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

Ethics still matter and plagiarism is a serious offense.

Classroom Policy

FIU prides itself as a community of diverse backgrounds: ethnic, racial, religious, cultural, social, political, economic, gender, sexual orientation, age, and ability. The University encourages, supports and appreciates these differences, and discourages all forms of prejudice, bias, bigotry, discrimination, and intimidation in the process of learning.

Disruptive behaviors are prohibited in classroom. They include behaviors that substantially and materially disrupt, disturb, impair, interfere with or obstruct the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the classroom.

Accessibility and Accommodation

If you have a documented disability and are a client of the FIU Disability Resource Center (DRC), please have the DRC send any pertinent information directly to my FIU email address so any necessary accommodations can be made in a timely fashion. The FIU Disability Resources Center strives to promote student success by working

collaboratively with students, faculty and staff to create an inclusive educational environment. The university is committed to advancing students learning and enhancing personal development. Any information provided will be kept confidential. Documentation of your disability will need to be sent to the Disability Resource Center (GC 190).

Religious Observance

Accommodations will be made for students who wish to observe their religious holidays. Please contact me at the beginning of the semester if you need to excuse your absence due to religious holidays.

Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with [FIU's Panthers Care website. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\). \(Links to an external site.\)](#) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call (305) 348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Weight
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Course Requirements	Weight
Exam 1 (Module 1 and 2)	22%
Exam 2 (Module 3)	22%
Exam 3 (Module 4)	22%
Homework Assignments	22%
In-Class Activities	12%
Total	100%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	89.50 or above	B	79.50 - 83.49	C	64.50 - 69.49
A-	86.50 - 89.49	B-	74.50 - 79.49	D	59.50 - 64.49
B+	83.50 - 86.49	C+	69.50 - 74.49	F	59.49 or less

Assignments

Homework Assignments

Homework assignments can be accessed through the "Assignments" tab on Canvas course page. Assignments are to be completed and submitted online through Canvas. No late submissions will be accepted. Please plan on being able to submit with ample time to handle technical glitches. I will drop the lowest score to correct for unforeseen circumstances that prevent you from submitting the homework.

Exams

Exams are not cumulative. Exam 1 covers Module 1 and 2. Exam 2 covers Module 3. Exam 3 covers Module 4. They are to be taken in the classroom.

In-Class Activities

There will be many in-class activities throughout the semester. They are random. Please bring a blank sheet of paper to write on with you to every lecture. In case you miss a lecture due to unforeseen circumstances, I will drop the lowest two in-class activities.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility** (CRCA) is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the CRCA team through report.fiu.edu.