

Public Economics / MSc Economic Policy – Module Outline

Module Code: ECP77264

Module Outline:

The module will introduce students to the field of public economics, which studies the role of the government in the economy.

Topics covered include:

- Introduction: What is public economics and why should you care?
- Rationales for government intervention (including insurance)
- (Social) insurance: unemployment, sickness and disability
- Public goods and externalities
- Commodity Taxation
- Income Taxation
- Taxation and the limits of redistribution

Module Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students will be able to:

1. Identify and understand key issues related to the field of public economics;
2. Formulate a balanced, critical judgment on the status of the debate around these issues;
3. Confidently discuss papers in the field of public economics;
4. Critically evaluate contributions to the field of public economics.

Assessment:

Assessment will be through a combination of coursework (30%) and a final exam (70%).

Recommended Reading List:

There are two core textbooks for this module:

- Hendricks and Myles (Intermediate Public Economics, 2e)
- Barr (Economics of the Welfare State, 6e)

Additional readings will be provided during the module.