UCLouvain

2025

becge1212

Public economics

The version you're consulting is not final. This course description may change. The final version will be published on 1st June.

5.00 credits 45.0 h + 15.0 h Q2

Grandjean Gilles ;					
French					
Bruxelles Saint-Louis					
The prerequisite(s) for this Teaching Unit (Unité d'enseignement – UE) for the programmes/courses that offer this Teaching Un are specified at the end of this sheet.					
 At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to : Understand the important roles of the state in a market economy. Solve exercises related to taught theories. Evaluate the relevance of public policies. Write an academic paper while adhering to specific methodological guidelines. Identify relevant academic references to address a question of public policy analysis. Summarize the scientific literature on a topic. Orally present a paper. 					
June: Written exam (75% of the final mark) and assessment of group work (25% of the final mark). August: If the group work score is 3/5 or greater, then the score for the August session is calculated the same way as in June. Otherwise, the written exam is assessed out of 20 and is the only source of assessment. It is not possible to (re)do the group work for the August session.					
 a) The lecture The lecture consists of a presentation of the concepts and explanatory mechanisms, illustrated presentation of concrete cases inspired by current events with a particular emphasis on the Belgian system. It will be supplemented by exercises seen in class which illustrate the key theoretical concepts. b) Group work The teachers will present the analytical tools that the students will have to use to carry out their work. This is done in groups in order to produce a synthetic final report which will be debated during a class discussion. The teaching team supports groups of students in developing their work through regular meetings during the semester. The use of generative AI in this work is prohibited. 					
 a) The lectures The first part of the course will be devoted to the normative analysis of the role of the State in the economy. It will deal with the economic problem and the various coordination mechanisms, market efficiency and its limits, public goods and externalities. The second part of the course will focus on the study of the characteristics of public policies in Belgium. We will deal in detail with the structure and evolution of public expenditure in Belgium, and the causes of growth in the public sector. Then the course will focus on the analysis of government revenue. We will study the Belgian tax system from a historical perspective and in comparison with other countries. The third part of the course studies income and wealth inequalities, poverty and their determinants, as well as public policies for the redistribution of income. Course Map Introduction Market, efficiency and failures Externalities Public goods and common resources Public expenditure Tax and fiscal policy in Belgium Inequalities, poverty and redistribution Group work The group work (maximum 3 students per group) will focus on the effect of public policies. You need to analyze a question based on scientific resources. For this, you will have to (i) identify your question, (ii) identify sources, (iii) write a plan (iv) write your work and (v) present it orally. 					

Faculty or entity in	ESPB
charge	

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)						
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes		
Bachelor in Law	DROB1BA	5	BDROI1220	٩		
Bachelor in Law French-Dutch (and French-Dutch-English)	DRNB1BA	5	BDROI1220	٩		
Bachelor in Economics and Management	ECGB1BA	5	BECGE1110	٩		
Bachelor : Business Engineering	INGB1BA	5	BECGE1110	٩		
Bachelor of Science in Business Engineering	BBEB1BA	5		٩		