

Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number: ECON 603
Course Title: Public Economics I

Instructor Details

Part I

Instructor: Jorge Luis García
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Part II

Instructor: Anna Ziff
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Course Description

This is a second-year topics class for students in the Ph.D. in economics. It is a primer on labor and public economics. All students planning to research applied microeconomics are advised to take it. Tools for applied economic analysis of microeconomic problems will be provided.

Course Prerequisites

Grade of B or better in [ECON 629](#) or approval of the instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, successful students will

- Practice and establish thoughtful workflow and coding practices
- Evaluate empirical papers' analysis, logical arguments, and writing structure
- Practice and improve academic writing skills
- Practice and improve presentation skills
- Propose feasible research ideas with a clear outline and concrete steps

Textbook and/or Resource Materials

None. Papers and notes will be posted to Canvas.

Course Schedule

Part I (Jorge)

- Choices, Sorting, and Counterfactuals
- Skills and Schooling
- Discrimination and Disparities
- Lifecycle Models and Dynamics
- Family Influence
- Neighborhood and Peer Effects
- Evaluating the Welfare State

Part II (Anna)

- Normative Analysis in Public Economics
- Public Goods
 - Externalities
 - Crowd-out
- Spatial Public Finance
 - Sorting
 - Fiscal federalism
 - Place-based policies
- Assorted Topics in Public and Urban Economics
 - Pollution and Climate Change
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Crime

Grading Policy

Research Proposal Development

- Research question 1 (5%)
- Research question 2 (5%)
- Research question 3 (5%)
- Literature review (5%)
- Data (5%)
- Empirical design (5%)
- Preliminary results (5%)
- Final write-up (35%)

Presentations

- Part 1 (15%)
- Part 2 (15%)