

## Public Economics

Lecturer	Room	Phone	Office hour
<b>Prof. Dr. Thiess Büttner</b>	<b>LG 6.113</b>	<b>5302-95 200</b>	<b>by appointment</b>
M. Sc. William Dean	LG 6.118	5302-96 286	N.N.

### Contents:

The lecture provides an introduction in public economics at the intermediate level. The course derives the basic theoretical foundations for an optimal design of public policy. In the second step, the course discusses specific aspects of public policy, such as taxation and redistribution, social security, tax evasion, debt finance, interjurisdictional competition, and fiscal federalism. It supplements theory by exploring practical problems through the discussion of empirical literature.

### Learning Objectives:

Students know how to characterize efficient public policies using microeconomic decision models. They can use this framework to study public policy in a rigorous and consistent general equilibrium context. Students are acquainted with important empirical approaches to evaluate public policies quantitatively. Moreover, they acquire knowledge about options, methods and limits to implement efficient public policy.

### Literature:

Hindriks, J., and Myles, G., (2006), Intermediate Public Economics, MIT Press, Cambridge

Atkinson, A.B., Stiglitz, J. E., (1980), Lectures on Public Economics . MacGraw-Hill, New York

Further literature will be given in the course. Lecture notes are provided on StudOn.

### Dates:

Lecture: Monday 16:45 - 18:15, LG H5. Start: April 13, 2026

Tutorial: Tuesday 15:00 - 16:30, LG 0.141 Start: April 14, 2026

