

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ECON4323 Public Expenditures and Taxation

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ECON 2803 Principles of Macroeconomics and ECON 2813 Principles of Microeconomics

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Deals with public revenues, the theory of taxation, institutions, and problems of the revenue system as a whole, and studies the effects of the taxing, spending, lending, and borrowing by government units upon the national income and employment.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Relate the economic importance of taxing and spending of government and their influence on the allocation of resources and distribution of income.
2. Explain the rationale for government intervention in the economy.
3. Argue why certain parts of metropolitan areas grow more rapidly than others.
4. Consider alternate solutions to externality problems such as Pigouvian taxes, subsidies, emissions fees, and cap-and-trade systems.
5. Assess the rationale and effectiveness of government expenditures on education, health care, and social security.
6. Analyze potential social projects using welfare economics and cost-benefit analysis.
7. Examine poverty in the context of income redistribution.
8. Contrast various expenditure programs for the poor.
9. Compare alternative tax systems on the basis of efficiency.
10. Evaluate the impact personal taxation has on the labor supply, saving, residential housing consumption, and portfolio choice.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills (Critical Thinking Skills)

Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills by rationally and intuitively organizing information and applying technical principles and theories when analyzing real-world economic policies.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Tools of Positive and Normative Analysis
- B. Public Goods
- C. Externalities
- D. Political Economy
- E. Education
- F. Cost-Benefit Analysis
- G. Health Care
- H. Social Security
- I. Expenditure Programs for the Poor
- J. Taxation and Income Distribution/Redistribution
- K. Taxation and Efficiency
- L. Efficient and Equitable Taxation
- M. Personal Taxation and Behavior
- N. Corporation Tax
- O. Deficit Finance