

San José State University
Department of Economics
ECON 132 – Public Finance - Section 01, 61; Summer 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Dr. Patralekha (Pat) Ukil
Office Location:	Zoom Meeting Room (<i>link provided in Canvas</i>)
Email:	patralekha.ukil@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	TBA
Class Days/Time:	N/A (asynchronous online course)
Classroom:	N/A
Prerequisites:	ECON 1B

Course Description

From the SJSU course catalog: Microeconomics of the public sector, role of government in market systems, cost-benefit analysis, public choice theory, taxation, fiscal federalism, state and local government sector.

The focus of this course is on understanding the microeconomic foundations of public sector involvement in an economy. Essentially, we will start with the question: “why does a market economy need a government?” We will use economic principles to understand the *reasons for* government involvement and intervention in a market economy, and also study the *impacts of* government expenditure programs and tax systems on the citizens’ behavior and welfare. We will be covering a wide range of theoretical issues relating to public finance with a focus on practical issues relating to U.S. based education, social insurance, healthcare, social security and taxation.

Course Format

This course will take place **entirely online** using the [Canvas Learning Management System](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. All students will require a reliable internet connection and an electronic device for access to Canvas LMS. You can borrow laptops and other equipment from the MLK library. Please visit the library or this website: <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services>.

The course will follow *an asynchronous online format* in which ALL lecture materials (lecture videos, lecture slides, additional readings, etc.) will be posted on Canvas. **There are no required online synchronous classes for lectures that need to be attended at a set time. Modules on Canvas will be organized by topic and whether they are core or optional, and you will receive regular notifications via Canvas. Please make sure that you check your Canvas notifications regularly.**

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. *Review, understand and apply relevant economic concepts relating to government intervention in market economies and issues relating to government expenditure and revenue systems.*
2. *Identify and apply relevant microeconomic principles related to government involvement in a market economy to real-life case studies.*
3. *Understand and analyze public finance topics with a focus on U.S.-based social issues such as insurance, healthcare, taxation and education, etc.*

Required Texts/Readings

There is no requirement to purchase a textbook for this course. Lecture slides, lecture videos, articles and all other reading materials will be posted on Canvas and constitute the required learning material for this course. Students interested in furthering their knowledge may email me for additional reading material.

Recommended reading: *Public Finance and Public Policy, 5th edition, Jonathan Gruber, Macmillan.*

Course Requirements and Assignments

In this course, there are **6 core modules** and **2 optional modules** (i.e., students can choose any 2 modules out of 4 optional modules). **So, in total each student should review 8 modules.** All relevant deadlines will be provided on Canvas.

The course grade will be based on the following:

1. Assignments (**8 quizzes associated with 8 course modules**)
 2. One midterm examination (take-home; **due Wednesday July 20th 2022**)
 2. One final examination (take-home; **due Sunday August 7th 2022**)
 4. Participation and discussions online in Canvas
- **Assignments** on Canvas will mainly have multiple-choice questions (i.e., quizzes), and will be associated with the material covered in a particular module, core or optional.
 - **All examinations** (the midterm and the final) are **take-home exams** and will be conducted on Canvas, and **will be based on the core modules only**. They **may** contain a combination of multiple-choice type questions and questions that require short/medium-length answers. You will receive ample time to work on them and submit them and you can also review your notes/lecture slides to prepare your answers. Some components of the examinations may be timed (e.g., the multiple-choice segment). **All exams will be posted on Canvas and will also be submitted via Canvas.**
 - **Participation grades** will be based on your engagement in any online discussions, any student surveys, or any questions posted on Canvas.

Grading Information

Course grades will be as follows:

8 quizzes:	40%
1 Midterm Exam:	25%
1 Final Exam:	30%
Canvas discussions/participation:	<u>5%</u>
	100%

Grade	Percentage
A plus	98 to 100%
A	94 to 97%
A minus	90 to 93%
B plus	86 to 89 %
B	83 to 85%
B minus	80 to 82%
C plus	76 to 79%
C	73 to 75%
C minus	70 to 72%
D plus	66 to 69%
D	63 to 65%
D minus	60 to 62%

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final evaluation for this course will be a take-home final examination which will be a cumulative or a culminating activity based on the course material covered in the summer session. Students will receive ample time to submit their answers to the take-home final exam. The final examination will be very similar in structure to the midterm examination.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

I will follow the [SJSU policy regarding academic integrity](#) and honesty, and will take it very seriously. Please read and understand what constitutes a violation in this respect and all instances of academic dishonesty will be reported by me.

Please come and talk to me as soon as you can if you are in need of any course changes, adaptations or any accommodations due to a disability. According to the [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) students with disabilities

requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center \(AEC\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/aec) at <https://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following university policies:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)
- [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf)
- [University Grading System Policy F18-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf)

You may also find the following information useful:

- [SJSU Cares](#)
- [The SJSU Food Pantry Program](#)
- [SJSU Counseling](#)
- [SJSU Learn Anywhere](#)

ECON 132-01, 61 Summer 2022 Course Schedule

If any changes have to be made to the syllabus, those changes will be communicated to all students in Canvas.
A timely notice and consideration will be provided to all students if any changes need to be made.

Module #	Type	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Introduction to the course and syllabus		
1	CORE	The Four Questions of Public Finance
2	CORE	Equilibrium and Welfare Analysis
3	CORE	Externality Theory and Coase Theorem
(Midterm exam will be based on Core Modules 1, 2 and 3)		
4	CORE	Theory of Public Goods
5	CORE	Social Insurance & Moral Hazard (6 lectures)
6	CORE	Taxation: Introduction, Equity and Efficiency Implications
(Final exam will be based on Core Modules 4, 5 and 6)		
<u>Choose any 2 out of the following 4:</u>		
1	OPTIONAL	Externalities in Action: Health Externalities (Economics of Smoking & Addictive Behavior)
2	OPTIONAL	Theory of Education & Education in the U.S.
3	OPTIONAL	Healthcare & Health Insurance in the U.S.
4	OPTIONAL	Social Security

SJSU Land Acknowledgement:

San José State University and Surrounding Region Thámien Ancestral Muwekma Ohlone Territory.

The San José State University community recognizes that the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, with an enrolled Bureau of Indian Affairs documented membership of over 550, is comprised of all of the known surviving American Indian lineages aboriginal to the San Francisco Bay region who trace their ancestry through the Missions Santa Clara, San José, and Dolores, during the advent of the Hispano- European empire into Alta California; and who are the successors and living members of the sovereign, historic, previously Federally Recognized Verona Band of Alameda County.

Furthermore, the San José State University community recognizes that the university is established within the Thámien Ohlone-speaking tribal ethnohistoric territory, which based upon the unratified federal treaties of 1851-1852, includes the unceded ancestral lands of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. Some of the enrolled Muwekma lineages are descended from direct ancestors from the Thámien Ohlone tribal territory whose ancestors had affiliation with Mission Santa Clara.

The San José State University community also recognizes the importance of this land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone people of this region, and consistent with our principles of community and diversity strives to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe whose land we occupy.