

<https://courseoutline.auckland.ac.nz/dco/course/ECON/761/1213>



# Business and Economics

## ECON 761 : Public Economics and Policy (15 POINTS)

2021 Semester One

### Course Prescription

Fundamental theorems of public economics, market failure, public choice theory, and distribution; the role of the economist in the making of public policy in a modern mixed economy, ideologies and critiques of the market model, the economics of the welfare state, welfare and tax reform in New Zealand, and applied poverty issues.

### Course Overview

The objective of the course is to demonstrate how economic analysis can provide an insight into issues of economic policy. It will cover, in particular, how government taxing and spending activities affect economic efficiency and the distribution of income and wealth. It should provide the tools necessary to complete a dissertation in this area and to proceed to undertake advanced research.

Students should be familiar with the topics covered in ECON701 Microeconomic Theory. Knowledge from ECON361 Public Economics is helpful but not necessary.

### Course Requirements

No pre-requisites or restrictions

### Capabilities Developed in this Course

- Capability 1: Disciplinary Knowledge and Practice
- Capability 2: Critical Thinking
- Capability 3: Solution Seeking
- Capability 4: Communication and Engagement
- Capability 5: Independence and Integrity
- Capability 6: Social and Environmental Responsibilities

Graduate Profile: [Bachelor of Commerce \(Honours\)](#)

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply the basic tools, concepts and models necessary for competence in key topics in Public Economics. (Capability 1 and 3)
2. Analyse policy challenges facing governments around the world and learn to find solutions to these challenges, taking into account obstacles to implementation. (Capability 2 and 5.1)
3. Discuss a set of perspectives into the economic activities of the government sector that will help them become enlightened participants - engaged citizens, voters, politicians and/or civil servants - in society. (Capability 5.2 and 6)
4. Explain and communicate recent academic research in the field of Public Economics orally and in writing. (Capability 4.1 and 4.2)

## Assessments

Assessment Type	Percentage	Classification
Problem Sets	15%	Individual Coursework
Presentation	30%	Individual Coursework
Discussions	15%	Individual Coursework
Reports	40%	Individual Coursework
4 types	100%	

Assessment Type	Learning Outcome Addressed			
	1	2	3	4
Problem Sets	✓			
Presentation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discussions	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓

Problem Sets: Three problem set solutions to be handed in via Canvas;

Presentation: Oral presentation of a selected topics in Public Economics;

Discussion: Oral Discussion of selected topics in Public Economics presented by fellow students;

Reports: Two written reports on selected topics in Public Economics to be handed in via Canvas.

The final grade will be 100% coursework, consisting of the handed-in solutions to practice exercises worth 15%, one oral presentation worth 30%, discussions of other students' presentation worth 15%, and two written reports, based on one's own presentation and the one of a fellow student, worth 20% each (40% overall).

These assignments are designed to give students practice and operational knowledge of the different theories presented in the lecture. They aim to develop the students' problem-solving, analytical and critical thinking

skills, as well as to test their ability to digest and analyse published material and elaborate on it both orally and in writing.

### Workload Expectations

This course is a standard 15 point course and students are expected to spend 10 hours per week involved in each 15 point course that they are enrolled in.

For this course, you can expect [3] hours of lectures, [3] hours of reading and thinking about the content and [4] hours of work on assignments and/or test preparation.

### Delivery Mode

#### Campus Experience

Attendance is expected at scheduled activities including tutorials to complete components of the course. Lectures will be available as recordings. Other learning activities including tutorials will be available as recordings. The course will not include live online events. Attendance on campus is required for the test and exam. The activities for the course are scheduled as a standard weekly timetable.

### Learning Resources

#### Recommended Text:

Hindriks, J. and Gareth D. Myles, 2013. Intermediate Public Economics, 2nd edition. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Lecture notes will be made available on Canvas. Ad-hoc readings will be suggested in preparation for the live presentations and discussions of selected topics in Public Economics planned for the second half of the semester.

### Student Feedback

At the end of every semester students will be invited to give feedback on the course and teaching through a tool called SET or Qualtrics. The lecturers and course co-ordinators will consider all feedback and respond with summaries and actions.

Your feedback helps teachers to improve the course and its delivery for future students.

Class Representatives in each class can take feedback to the department and faculty staff-student consultative committees.

### Digital Resources

Course materials are made available in a learning and collaboration tool called Canvas which also includes reading lists and lecture recordings (where available).

Please remember that the recording of any class on a personal device requires the permission of the instructor.

## Academic Integrity

The University of Auckland will not tolerate cheating, or assisting others to cheat, and views cheating in coursework as a serious academic offence. The work that a student submits for grading must be the student's own work, reflecting their learning. Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This requirement also applies to sources on the internet. A student's assessed work may be reviewed against online source material using computerised detection mechanisms.

## Inclusive Learning

All students are asked to discuss any impairment related requirements privately, face to face and/or in written form with the course coordinator, lecturer or tutor.

Student Disability Services also provides support for students with a wide range of impairments, both visible and invisible, to succeed and excel at the University. For more information and contact details, please visit the [Student Disability Services' website](http://disability.auckland.ac.nz) <http://disability.auckland.ac.nz>

## Special Circumstances

If your ability to complete assessed coursework is affected by illness or other personal circumstances outside of your control, contact a member of teaching staff as soon as possible before the assessment is due.

If your personal circumstances significantly affect your performance, or preparation, for an exam or eligible written test, refer to the University's [aegrotat or compassionate consideration page](https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/academic-information/exams-and-final-results/during-exams/aegrotat-and-compassionate-consideration.html) <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/academic-information/exams-and-final-results/during-exams/aegrotat-and-compassionate-consideration.html>.

This should be done as soon as possible and no later than seven days after the affected test or exam date.

## Learning Continuity

In the event of an unexpected disruption we undertake to maintain the continuity and standard of teaching and learning in all your courses throughout the year. If there are unexpected disruptions the University has contingency plans to ensure that access to your course continues and your assessment is fair, and not compromised. Some adjustments may need to be made in emergencies. You will be kept fully informed by your course co-ordinator, and if disruption occurs you should refer to the University Website for information about how to proceed.

## Student Charter and Responsibilities

The Student Charter assumes and acknowledges that students are active participants in the learning process and that they have responsibilities to the institution and the international community of scholars. The University expects that students will act at all times in a way that demonstrates respect for the rights of other students and staff so that the learning environment is both safe and productive. For further information visit [Student Charter](https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/forms-policies-and-guidelines/student-policies-and-guidelines/student-charter.html) <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/forms-policies-and-guidelines/student-policies-and-guidelines/student-charter.html>.

## Disclaimer

Elements of this outline may be subject to change. The latest information about the course will be available for enrolled students in Canvas.

In this course you may be asked to submit your coursework assessments digitally. The University reserves the right to conduct scheduled tests and examinations for this course online or through the use of computers or other electronic devices. Where tests or examinations are conducted online remote invigilation arrangements may be used. The final decision on the completion mode for a test or examination, and remote invigilation arrangements where applicable, will be advised to students at least 10 days prior to the scheduled date of the assessment, or in the case of an examination when the examination timetable is published.