

Public Economics Group

Tim Friehe

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Marburg, 4 September 2026

Introduction to Public Economics

—	Lecture instructor:	Tim Friehe
	Lecture time and venue:	Tuesday, 8:00-10:00, Am Plan 1
	First lecture:	13 October 2026
	Exercise class instructor:	David Berthold
	Exercise class time and venue:	Thursday, 12:00-14:00, Room 209 (+2/0090) (Universitätsstraße 24, Institute Building (U 04))
	First exercise class:	22 October 2026
—	Prerequisites:	Material covered in Microeconomics I
	Assessment format:	Written exam (60 minutes)

Brief Description:

Public economics examines government activity using economic methods. Accordingly, it considers government activity from both normative and positive perspectives. The first part of this course discusses possible objectives of government action and provides an introduction to the theory of public goods and externalities. It then addresses issues of taxation and redistribution.

Course Outline:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Welfare Criteria
- 3) Public Goods
- 4) Externalities
- 5) Taxation
- 6) Redistribution

Selected References:

Key references:

Hindriks, J. and G. Myles, 2013. Intermediate Public Economics. 2nd ed. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Gruber, J., 2026. Public Finance and Public Policy. 8th ed. New York: Worth Publishing.

Additional references:

Leach, J., 2004. A Course in Public Economics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Silvestre, J., 2012. Public Microeconomics – Efficiency and Equity in Public Policy. Edward Elgar.

Additional references in German:

Brümmerhoff, D., und T. Büttner, 2018. Finanzwissenschaft. 12th edition. München: Oldenbourg.

Blankart, C.B., 2017. Öffentliche Finanzen in der Demokratie. 9th edition. München: Vahlen.

Breyer, F. und M. Kolmar, 2014. Grundlagen der Wirtschaftspolitik. 4th edition. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

Corneo, G., 2018. Öffentliche Finanzen: Ausgabenpolitik. 5th edition. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

Homburg, S., 2021. Allgemeine Steuerlehre. 8th edition. München: Vahlen.

Keuschnigg, C., 2005. Öffentliche Finanzen: Einnahmenpolitik. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

Weimann, J., 2009. Wirtschaftspolitik. 5th edition. Berlin: Springer.

Wigger, B., 2006. Grundzüge der Finanzwissenschaft. 2nd edition. Berlin: Springer.

Zimmermann, H., Henke, K.D. und M. Broer, 2017. Finanzwissenschaft. 12th edition. München: Vahlen.

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