

Public Policies for Sustainable Growth and Social Welfare

Code: 45542

ECTS Credits: 10

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Economía y Administración de Empresas	OP	1

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

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Prerequisites

Fundamentals of Economics and Business I

Fundamentals of Economics and Business II

Objectives and Contextualisation

Environmental Economics and Policies

This course aims to review the economic analysis of the main environmental problems as well as the different environmental policy tools; To understand the relationship between economic, social and ecological systems; And to study the analytical tools of ecological economics. To analyse the main current debates in the field.

Health Economics and Policies

This course consists of the analysis of the issues related to the delivery and financing of health services. The course explores the basic topics of demand and supply for health and health care along with the basics of market structure in the health care sector. Finally, a basic analysis of how to analyse the performance of the sector.

Social Protection Policies

The aim of this course is to assess the existence and design of the welfare state, by learning the economic theory of the state intervention in order to improve citizens' wellbeing and the different programs aimed at that end. Analysing the current organization of the welfare state in different countries, and challenges and responses in a changing world.

Learning Outcomes

1. CA12 (Competence) Assess the role and influence of development, environment and health policies on social welfare and sustainability.
2. CA13 (Competence) Analyse the characteristics and effects of the monetary and fiscal policies of governments in a context of increasing globalisation, complexity and economic integration.
3. CA14 (Competence) Offer information effectively about government economic policies to audiences with and without prior knowledge of economic analysis.
4. CA15 (Competence) Assess the role of governments and their growth, environment and social protection policies on the wellbeing of families.
5. KA15 (Knowledge) Recognise the functioning of public policy in the field of energy, with special consideration of their environmental impact aspects.
6. KA16 (Knowledge) Identify the determinants of economic growth and development in relation to social welfare and sustainability.
7. KA17 (Knowledge) Identify the fundamental elements of public policies related to the family and migratory movements in a context of increasing globalization and social complexity.
8. KA18 (Knowledge) List the relevant factors for the design and implementation of public policies in the field of health, with special emphasis on their efficiency and equity.
9. KA19 (Knowledge) Identify the main variables of the fiscal and financial policies of states in a context of decreasing globalisation, complexity and economic integration.
10. KA20 (Knowledge) Identify the main public policy on social protection from the point of view of efficiency and social equity.
11. SA09 (Skill) Analyse the processes of designing public policies aimed at sustainable growth and development, and the wellbeing of families.

Content

Environmental Economics and Policies

1. The economic analysis of the environment and ecological economics. The relationship between the economy and the environment. The economy and environmental problems.
2. Markets operation and environmental degradation. Justifications for public intervention with environmental policies. Microeconomic analysis of pollution.
3. Different conceptions of sustainable development and their applications.
4. Economic appraisal of environmental policies. Valuation problems.
5. Economic analysis of the environment and future generations. Ethics and ecological economics.
6. Environmental policy tools: environmental taxes, tradable permits and others.
7. The relationship between economic growth, environmental quality, and environmental policies.
8. Global environmental problems: Economics and policy of climate change.

Health Economics and Policies

1. Demand for health, health care and insurance: Health and health behaviours; Demand for health care services; Demand for private health insurance.
2. Supply of health care services and insurance: Market for physicians' services; Hospitals. Supply of private health insurance.

3. Market structure in the healthcare sector: Private financing of health care services; Government financing and private supply; Public supply and financing.
4. Performance of the healthcare sector: Cost and cost-effectiveness analysis; Measuring benefits and cost-benefit analysis; The contribution of personal health services to longevity, population health, and economic growth.
5. Economic evaluation and equity: Relationship between income with productivity changes and willingness to pay; Health gains, severity and age; Consequences beyond patient's health gains.

Social Protection Policies

1. Political Theory: social justice and the public sector.
2. Economic Theory: efficiency, equity and insurance.
3. Measuring welfare, poverty and inequality.
4. The economic lifecycle and the need for intertemporal redistribution: the National Transfer Accounts and National Time Transfer Accounts.
5. Welfare state programs: Cash benefits and in-kind benefits.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures with ITC support	37.5	1.5	
Resolution of exercises	37.5	1.5	
Type: Supervised			
Tutoring and monitoring work in progress. In-class presentations	62.5	2.5	
Type: Autonomous			
Study, Reading, Exercise solving, Essays writing,	79.5	3.18	

The activities that will allow the students to learn the basic concepts included in this course are:

1. Theory lectures where the instructor will explain the main concepts.

The goal of this activity is to introduce the basic notions and guide the student learning

2. Problem Sets

In some subjects, a problem set which students will have to solve individually or in teams will be included in every unit. The goal of this activity is twofold. On one hand students will work with the theoretical concepts explained in the classroom, and on the other hand through this practice they will develop the necessary skills for problem solving.

3. Practice lectures

The aim of this activity is to comment on and solve any possible doubt that students may have had solving the problem assignment. This way they will be able to understand and correct any errors they may have had during this process.

4. Essay writing

In some subjects students will produce written essays on the topics proposed

5. Tutoring hours

Students will have some tutor hours in which the subject instructors will help them solve any doubts they may have.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Exercises and essays	35%	27	1.08	CA12, CA13, CA14, CA15, KA15, KA16, KA17, KA18, KA19, KA20, SA09
Topic Exam: Environmental Economics and Policies	21.66%	2	0.08	CA12, CA14, CA15, KA15, KA16, SA09
Topic Exam: Health Economics and Policies	21.66%	2	0.08	CA12, CA14, KA16, KA18
Topic exam: Social Protection Policies	21.66%	2	0.08	CA12, CA14, CA15, KA16, KA17, KA20, SA09

1. The module consists of a number of different subjects or parts taught by different professors. The final mark for the module will consist of the average of the marks of each subject within the module.

- The module is considered successfully passed if:
 - the mark for each subject within the module is higher than or equal to 3.0 (in a 0 to 10 scale), and
 - the final mark for that module is higher than or equal to 5.0 (in a 0 to 10 scale).

IMPORTANT: Students are expected to attend all lectures. Class attendance and in-class participation will be part of the final assessment of each subject.

- If the module is not successfully passed, the MEBA coordinators will ask the student to re-take the exams for those subjects that, according to the coordinators and the professors opinions, may help the student to successfully pass the module.

If after the re-take exams the student successfully passes the module, her or his mark for that module will be upgraded accordingly, otherwise the previous grade will remain valid. Two restrictions apply for the results after retaking:

- the highest mark for any subject retaken is 5.5; and
- the final grade of the module after the re-take exams cannot be higher than 6.8.

The calendar for the re-retake exams will be announced along with the grades report

1. The mark -between 0 and 10- for each subject will be computed by each professor based on his or her own criteria and on the student's performance. As a general rule, 35% of the mark will correspond to the

assessment of the continuous work of the student during the course, and 65% will consist of a comprehensive final examination. The duration and nature of the final examination is decided by each professor.

2. Final exams are compulsory. Re-take exams are only thought for those students having previously written a first exam and failed.

Bibliography

General References

Common, M., Stagl, S. (2005). *Ecological Economics*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Padilla Rosa, E., Ramos-Martín, J. (Eds.) (2023) *Elgar Encyclopedia of Ecological Economics*, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, and Northampton, Massachusetts.

Pearce, D.W., Turner R.K. (1990) *Economics of Natural Resources and the Environment*. Harvester Wheatsheaf, London.

Sloan, F.A., Hsieh, C. R (2012). *Health Economics*. MIT Press. (1st. edition). 2012.

Olsen, J.A (2009). *Principles in health economics and policy*. Oxford University Press (1st edition). 2009.

Barr, N. (2020). *The Economics of the Welfare State*. Oxford University Press (6th Edition).

Emgster, D. (2015). *Justice, Care and the Welfare State*. Oxford University Press

Gruber, J. (2007). *Public Finance and Public Policy*. Worth Publishers, Second Edition.

Silvestre, J. (2012). *Public Economics. Efficiency and Equity in Public Policy*. Edward Elgar.

Specific references

Specific references for each subject and topic will be distributed by professors along the course.

Software

No

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(TEM) Theory (master)	30	English	second semester	morning-mixed