

**Department of Economics, Rutgers University**  
**Public Economics (Upper-Elective Course)**  
**01:220:460:01 - Spring 2023**  
**Syllabus**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Oriol Carbonell  
 106A New Jersey Hall, CAC  
[carbonell-nicolau@rutgers.edu](mailto:carbonell-nicolau@rutgers.edu)

**HOURS**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 PM–3:20 PM.**

**BUILDING, ROOM**

Murray Hall, 210.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Held virtually on **Tuesdays 6:00 PM–7:00 PM** and **Wednesdays 4:00 PM–5:00 PM**, and by appointment.  
*Students who plan to attend office hours should email the instructor in advance.*

**PREREQUISITES**

01:220:320 and 01:220:322 with grades of C or higher.

**COURSE WEB SITE**

<https://canvas.rutgers.edu>

This link will take you to the Canvas web site. You can log on to Canvas using your net ID and password. The course worksite is entitled “PUBLIC ECONOMICS”.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course uses tools of neoclassical microeconomic analysis to study the standard economic rationales for government intervention in market economies and the effects of welfare-improving policies.

**GRADING**

*Six announced quizzes will determine your grade. There will be no final examination, nor will any extra credit work be provided. Each quiz will carry the same weight.*

The following is the correspondence between average percentage scores and letter grades that will be used for this course:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Minimum average percentage score</i>
A	90%
B+	85%
B	75%
C+	65%
C	60%
D	55%

**Note:** Missed exams are excused only for medical reasons or emergencies, *provided that the instructor is notified within 24 hours after the missed exam*, and only with a note from the Dean’s office or a signed form from a physician’s office and confirmation of the visit by the instructor. **There are no makeups for missed makeup exams**—if you schedule a make-up, stick to the date and time we arrange.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

*Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity.* You should be familiar with the [university policy on academic integrity](#). **Violations will be reported and enforced according to this policy.**

**ABSENCES**

Students are expected to attend all meetings. If you expect to miss one or two classes because of illness or a family emergency, please use the University [absence reporting website](#) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to the instructor.

### QUIZ DATES

- Quiz 1: *Tuesday, January 31.*
- Quiz 2: *Thursday, February 9.*
- Quiz 3: *Tuesday, February 28.*
- Quiz 4: *Tuesday, March 28.*
- Quiz 5: *Tuesday, April 11.*
- Quiz 6: *Thursday, April 27.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **Tuesday, January 17:** First day of class for Spring 2023 semester.
- **Thursday, January 26:** Last day for undergraduates to add a course.
- **Thursday, January 26:** Last day for undergraduates to drop a course without a “W.”
- **Saturday, March 11–Sunday, March 19:** Spring break.
- **Monday, March 20:** Last day to drop a course by withdrawal.
- **Monday, May 1:** Last day of classes.

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Do *not* use electronic devices (cell phones, i-pods, laptops, etc.) in the classroom.

### REFERENCES

*There is no required textbook.* The following standard references can be used as a complement—*not as a substitute*—for the material covered in class. Copies of these references have been placed on reserve at Alexander Library.

- Gruber, Jonathan, *Public Finance and Public Policy*, Worth Publishers.
- Stiglitz, Joseph E., *Economics of the Public Sector*, W.W. Norton and Company.
- Rosen, Harvey S., and Ted Gayer, *Public Finance*, McGraw Hill.

### COURSE OUTLINE

1. Externalities.
2. Public goods.
3. Welfare programs.
4. Social Insurance.
5. Credit markets with asymmetric information.
6. Taxation.
7. Market power.

**Note:** Time constraints may cause some topics to be omitted.