

ECON 131
Public Economics
SECTION SYLLABUS, SPRING 2017

GSI: Dario Tortarolo

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Material: <http://economics.dtortarolo.com.ar/>

Time and Location:

- 101 DIS: M 7:00-8:00P — 243 DWINELLE
- 102 DIS: M 4:00-5:00P — 105 LATIMER

Office Hours: updated on my website

Objective

This course focuses on the role of the government in the economy from a positive and a normative perspective. During the sections I will provide you handouts and we will review difficult concepts and tools as we go over the exercises. This will be very good practice to master the material and get ready for the exams. The section material will be identical across GSIs and will be posted on our websites.

Office Hours

During office hours you are welcome to ask any question related to lecture and section material or problem sets. Your questions will be addressed on a first come, first served basis. Some deviations from this rule are possible if I find them convenient. Note that I won't be able to provide you with exact homework solutions during my office hours, but I will provide some guidance. If you have time conflicts with my OH you can attend the other GSI's OH.

Homeworks

There will be 4 homeworks (20%) **due in class February 15, March 8, April 5, April 26**. You are encouraged to work in (small) groups, but everyone has to turn in an individual problem set. Direct copying from someone else's work is not acceptable, nor is looking at previous solutions that may be available. I will bring cases of suspected copying to Prof. Saez's attention. There will be no regrades on the problem sets. Late homeworks will not be accepted. If you are unable to submit your homework on time yourself, try to ask your classmates to do it or send me an e-mail explaining your situation in advance.

E-mail Policy

E-mails are reserved for administrative matters only (you should write [ECON 131] in the subject field). Please do not ask material-related questions by e-mail. It is better to answer questions in person, especially if they require careful explanations or graphs. We believe you have many resources (sections, office hours, review sessions) to ask questions about lecture, homework, practice problems, etc. So please use these resources first.

Other Policies

- **Attendance:** is NOT mandatory but is highly recommended. You are allowed to attend any of my sections, but please stick to one of them and let me know in advance.
- **Enrollment Issues:** If you have any problems with enrollment, please contact the Head GSI Katja Jensen (headgsi@econ.berkeley.edu). I have no authority over these matters.
- **Special Accommodations:** If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, if you have emergency medical information you wish to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please see me privately after class or in my office. You can also contact Prof. Saez and the DSP website (<http://www.dsp.berkeley.edu/>). You will need a Letter of Accommodation from DSP which should be sent directly to the professor.
- **Electronic devices:** Turn off the sound on your electronic devices before class. Cell phones are not permitted. Laptops are permitted, but try not to distract me or your friends.
- **Tutoring Resources:** The Department of Economics has tutors who will be available to help you. More information is available at <https://www.econ.berkeley.edu/undergrad/home/tutoring>.

Academic Honesty

Remember Berkeley's Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others". The expectation is that you will adhere to this code.