

Economic and Fiscal Policy (4 ECTS)

Contents

This course covers the main principles of economic policy, monetary and fiscal policy and other relevant topics. Students learn the main features of the market mechanism and explain how and why market and government failures occur. The course aims to explore and make students understand why monetary policy matters and how the actions of the central bank affects inflation, prices and GDP. Moreover, the course will explore and explain fiscal policy and government interventions and their economic effects. Furthermore, in the weekly discussions students analyse current topics of heated debates and explain the different views involved.

Learning Outcomes

Having graduated this course, students will have an understanding of the basic interplay between markets and governments. They will understand the strengths and weaknesses of markets:

- What do markets provide (efficiently) that governments do not?
- What do markets fail to provide that the government must?
- What tools does the government have to affect markets, or correct for them?
- After graduating the course, students will be able to answer these questions generally and thematically and to assess the effectiveness of economic and fiscal policy measures.

In the second part of the course, questions about the implications of monetary and fiscal policies for welfare, economic growth and labour market outcomes are explored. The course aims to give students a good understanding not only of theoretical and empirical evidence, but also to enable them to understand everyday news from an economic point of view. To complete the learning outcomes, students gain a general understanding of meaning and relevance of the economic cycle.

This lecture also requires from the students to develop the following abilities:

- apply theoretical concepts to practical examples;
- present and explain complex theoretical concepts;
- reasoned phrasing and active participation in discussions.

Literature

Bofinger, Peter (2015). *Grundzüge der Volkswirtschaftslehre – Eine Einführung in die Wissenschaft von Märkten*. Pearson. (Kap. 1, 11, 15, 17 – 21)

Zimmermann, H., Henke, K., und Broer, M. (2009). *Finanzwissenschaft*. Vahlen, München. (Kap.1)

