

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 36147
Name: Public economic evaluation
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1316 - Degree in Economics	Facultat d'Economia	4	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1316 - Degree in Economics	Pathway: public economy	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

Public Economic Evaluation is an elective course taken in the 4th year of the Bachelor's Degree in Economics. It belongs to the module "Public Sector Economics" and the subject area "Public Economics and Fiscal System," and is worth 6 ECTS credits. The course is part of the Public Economics specialization.

The subject area "Public Economics and Fiscal System" aims to provide students with knowledge and understanding of the roles and functions of the public sector, as well as various aspects related to public revenue policies and public expenditure programs. Among these, the compulsory course "Public Sector Economics" stands out as it lays the groundwork for understanding the rest of the elective courses in the area, including Public Economic Evaluation, Spanish Tax System, Public Regulation, and Fiscal Federalism (Regional and Local Finance).

By studying the courses in this subject area, students will gain in-depth knowledge of how the public sector functions, which will be valuable in their professional future, especially in all levels of public administration, as well as in the interaction between businesses and the public sector, through knowledge of the tax system and major public spending programs.

Conventional economic analysis of the public sector has traditionally underemphasized a key issue that has gained relevance during times of economic crisis and has become increasingly significant in public management: thoroughly analyzing decision-making in the public domain. To do this, it is essential to carry out economic evaluation of major public policies. This, in turn, informs citizens about possible government actions and fosters the much-needed transparency and "good governance." New civic,



professional, and social forums are demanding such evaluations and are participating in their development.

Economic evaluation and the assessment of public sector actions are indispensable steps toward sound public regulation, what is known in public administration as the process of "better regulation."

Additionally, economic analysis must consider new patterns in the collection of societal values in order to measure and define the general well-being of the population. This involves monetizing the costs and benefits of goods or services that are invisible in the market due to the absence of prices, yet are valuable and vital to a country's wealth.

These tasks are the focus of the Public Economic Evaluation course.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

For coherent learning within the public economics module, students should have completed the compulsory courses Public Sector Economics I and II. This course builds on and expands certain elements covered in those compulsory courses. It also makes sense to connect this course with other electives related to the public sector, particularly Public Economic Regulation.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1316 - Degree in Economics

Apply the principles of economic analysis (rational decision) to the diagnosis and resolution of problems.

Be able to collect and analyse information.

Be able to design and manage economic projects.

Be able to learn autonomously.

Be able to work in a team (including interdisciplinary teams).

Have decision-making skills and be able to apply knowledge to practice.

Have oral and written communication skills in the native language.

Know and understand the main market failures (public goods and externalities), their private and public solutions and their influence on the environment and natural resources.

Know the economic measures to reduce income inequality and poverty.

Show critical thinking skills.



Show ethical commitment and social responsibility at work, respect the environment and human rights and promote equality between men and women and the culture of peace.

Understand and apply the scientific method, which involves formulating hypotheses, deducing verifiable results and contrasting them with empirical and experimental evidence.

Understand the actions and functions of the public sector in the economy and the detailed development of the different public income policies and public expenditure programmes.

Understand the effects of different market structures on efficiency and equity and the influence of regulatory policies.

Understand the functioning of the economy at the aggregate level and the effect of different economic policies.

Understand the keys to the functioning of market economy, the difference between normative and positive reasoning and between the concepts of equity and efficiency.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Topic 1. Public and economic evaluation

- Concept of evaluation. The importance of value

- Economic evaluation and its role in economic decision-making

Public budgeting and priorities

Public management and implementation of priorities

- Basic elements and types of economic evaluation.

Economic evaluation criteria and techniques

- Evaluation in the context of public activities.

Unique characteristics and differences from private and social economic evaluations

2. Topic 2: Economic Evaluation Criteria:



- Definition and types of criteria
- In-depth analysis of productivity, efficacy and effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and profitability
- Innovations: multi-criteria analysis

3. Topic 3: Economic evaluation techniques:

- Cost-benefit analysis
- Cost-effectiveness analysis
- Cost-efficiency analysis
- Cost-effectivity and Cost-utility analysis,
- Cost-consequence analysis

4. Topic 4.- Extensions of economic evaluation. Other modalities of public policy evaluation

- The institutionalization of public policy evaluation (national and international institutional framework).
- The basic elements of economic and other types of evaluation. Concept, design phases, typologies (needs, design, implementation, and impact), and limitations.
- Obtaining costs and benefits using direct and indirect methods for cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis in economic evaluation: avoided costs, travel costs, hedonic pricing, contingent valuation.

5. Topic 5: Types and methodology of qualitative evaluation: Strengths and limitations

- Observation and participant observation
- Delphi method
- Focus groups
- Document analysis



-SWOT analysis

-Qualitative interviews

-Policy análisis

6. Topic 6: Quantitative evaluation methodology

- Descriptive: specific indicators; surveys; structured interviews; user archive data; bivariate analysis.
- Analytical (non-descriptive), with macro and microeconomic data.

From experimental to real-world settings (quasi-experimental and experimental):

- Experimental methodologies and natural experiments
- Quasi-experimental methodologies (difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity, structural equations, and matching learning).
- Efficiency analysis methodologies (DEA) and cost-effectiveness (Markov models and decision trees).
- New evaluation methodologies

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Classroom practices	30,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	6,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	34,00
Preparation of lessons	30,00
Preparation for assessment activities	20,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00



TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Master classes will be given by one professor and the contents will be structured looking the combination of the economic theory of evaluation will be sought with the analysis of specific cases of the provision of different public services.

Apart from the lectures that will be given by the teacher, the student will be asked to comment on some text related to the subject being worked on. This text will be discussed in class by the students and will be guided by the teacher.

Evaluation cases will also be discussed and some type of exercise in class will be requested in groups.

The bibliography will be commented as each subject of the classes is studied. During the course the teacher will leave in the virtual classroom the materials related to the classes (complementary readings, cases of evaluation of different public services, and also web pages of interest that he deems appropriate), and can be consulted at: www.aulavirtual.uv.es

EVALUATION

Evaluation

1) A final exam. It will consist of a written test on all the content discussed in the subject and will be carried out in official dates set by the faculty. It will count for 60% of the final grade.

2) Continuous assessment (40% of the grade). This part is based on the delivery of different practices, group defense of some works in public and the preparation of a final work. This part will be taken into account only if the exam grade final is equal to or greater than 4,5 out of 10.

Continuous Assessment involves non-recoverable activities.

REFERENCES

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Repository and websites of national and international reference institutions in evaluation: AIReF; IEPP; SIPER; J.PAL; World Bank; NICE; EEF.