

Course Syllabus

Class/Department : Department of Public Finance

Course Title: Public Choice 公共選擇

Grade(應修系級) : Master degree student

Type: Required Selective Whole Half

Credits:3

Course Number:

Prerequisite Course: N/A

Course Description:

Aims and Teaching Method

- To get students understood its theory and practical application of “public choice” approaches in political decision processes.
- To teach “public choice” in both theoretical and practical approaches with concrete examples and exercises.

Course Objective:

Expected Achievement for Student

- To deepen students’ understanding on theory and its application of “public choice”.
- To consider the political decision-making processes in “public choice” viewpoints.
- To understand a relationship between government policy decision and preference or choice of general public through “public choice” theoretical approaches.

Course Outline: (including teaching schedule):

The studies of political related issues with the economic approach:

1. Introduction
2. Methodology
3. Main topics
 - (1) The Choice of Institutions
 - (2) Bureaucracy
 - (3) Rent-seeking
 - (4) Political Institution and Government Performance
 - (5) Social Capital, Government, and Economic Performance
 - (6) Political Business Cycle
 - (7) Preferences for Redistribution
 - (8) Income Inequality and Political Participation
 - (9) Future Development in Public Choice

學生核心能力權重：八項加總為 100，不需每項均得填寫，惟至少需填一項

Item	Creative thinking and Problem-solving 創意思考與問題解決	Comprehensive integration 綜合統整	Communication and Coordination 溝通協調	Team cooperation 團隊合作
Weight	35%	35%	5%	5%
Item	Integrity and Upright 誠信正直	Respect and Reflection 尊重自省	Diverse care 多元關懷	Cross-border cooperation 跨界合作
Weight	5%	5%	5%	5%

Career Development:

Evaluation Methods:

a presentation (20%) and a term paper (80%)

Required texts:

Reference texts:

1. Perspectives on Public Choice, Ch. 1, Public Choice in Perspective, Dennis Mueller, 1997, Cambridge University Press
2. Public Choice III, Ch. 2, The Reason for Collective Choice - Allocative Efficiency
3. Public Choice III, Ch. 3, The Reason for Collective Choice - Redistribution
4. Public Choice III, Ch. 16, Bureaucracy
5. A Theory of Competition among Pressure Groups for Political Influence
6. Nordhaus, W. 1975. The political business cycle.
7. Alesina, A., and Roubini, N. 1992. Political cycles in OECD economies.
8. Bjørnskov, C. 2005. Does political ideology affect economic growth?
9. Di Tella, R., and MacCulloch, R.J. 2005. Partisan social happiness.
10. Glaeser, E., Laibson, D., and Sacerdote, B. 2002. An economic approach to social capital.
11. Leigh, A. 2005. Economic voting and electoral behavior: How do individual, local, and national factors affect the partisan choice?
12. Putnam, R. 2000. Bowling Alone:
13. Chang, Wen-Chun (2009) "Social Capital and Subjective Happiness in Taiwan"
14. Matsusaka, J. 2005. The eclipse of legislatures: Direct democracy in the 21st century.

15. Matsusaka, J. 2005. Direct democracy works.
16. Feld, L.P., and Kirchgässner, G. 2000. Direct democracy, political culture, and the outcome of economic policy
17. Feld, L.P., and Kirchgässner, G. 2001. Does direct democracy reduce public debt? Evidence from Swiss municipalities.
18. Feld, L.P., and Matsusaka, J.G. 2003. Budget referendums and government spending: Evidence from Swiss cantons.
19. Feld, L.P., Schaltegger, C.S., and Schnellenbach J. 2008. On government centralization and fiscal referendums.
20. Lipset, S. 1959. Some social requisites of democracy: Economic development and political legitimacy.
21. Knack, S., and Keefer, P. (1997), "Does Social Capital have an Economic Payoff? A Country Investigation