

(GPP 800) Economics for Public Policy

Pre-requisites: None

Learning objectives

The course aims to analyze the impact of public policy on the allocation of resources and the distribution of income in the economy. In this course, students will learn how to use the tools of microeconomics and empirical analysis to answer these questions: When should the government intervene in the economy? How might the government intervene? And, what are the effects of those interventions on economic outcomes? The course aims to explore the rationale for public policy interventions in the economy and provide an overview of a wide range of areas of applied microeconomics used in public policy, including relevant historical and international experience

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- Explain how scarce resources are allocated in a market system
- Recognize various forms of market failure and explain how governments might need to intervene
- Recognize the constraints on government intervention and explain why government policy might fail
- Relate basic economic theory and principles to current economic issues and evaluate related public policy
- Use economic models to analyze a situation in terms of economics
- Understand the broader social consequences of economic decisions making
- Link policy choices to social welfare, or ethical, goals.
- Connect economic trade-offs with issues of political choice and practical implementation.

Course Contents

State Ownership, Privatization and Regulation, Income Distribution and Welfare Programs, Taxation and Tax Reform, Government Debt, Market Failures, Social

Security, Unemployment Insurance and Health Insurance, Industrial Policy, Evaluating Public Policies.

Text books

1. Jonathan, G.,(2016).Public Finance and Public Policy, 5th edition. Macmillan.
2. Le Grand, J, Smith, S, and Propper, C.(2008).The Economics of Social Problems 4th edition . Macmillan.