

**San José State University**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON 132 – Public Finance - Section 01, 61; Summer 2024**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor(s):	Dr. Patralekha (Pat) Ukil
Office Location:	Zoom Meeting Room ( <i>link provided in Canvas</i> )
Email:	patralekha.ukil@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	<b>Fridays 2pm – 4pm PST</b>
Class Days/Time:	N/A (asynchronous online course)
Classroom:	N/A
Prerequisites:	ECON 1B

**Course Description**

From the SJSU course catalog: Microeconomics of the public sector, role of government in market systems, cost-benefit analysis, public choice theory, taxation, fiscal federalism, state and local government sector.

The focus of this course is on understanding the microeconomic foundations of public sector involvement in an economy. Essentially, we will start with the question: “why does a market economy need a government?” We will use economic principles to understand the *reasons for* government involvement and intervention in a market economy, and also study the *impacts of* government expenditure programs and tax systems on the citizens’ behavior and welfare. We will be covering a wide range of theoretical issues relating to public finance with a focus on practical issues relating to U.S. based education, social insurance, healthcare, social security and taxation.

**Course Format**

This course will take place **entirely online** using the [Canvas Learning Management System](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. All students will require a reliable internet connection and an electronic device for access to Canvas LMS. You can borrow laptops and other equipment from the MLK library. Please visit the library or this website: <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services>.

The course will follow *an asynchronous online format* in which ALL lecture materials (lecture videos, lecture slides, additional readings, etc.) will be posted on Canvas. **There are no required online synchronous classes for lectures that need to be attended at a set time. Modules on Canvas will be organized by topic, and you will receive regular notifications via Canvas. Please make sure that you check your Canvas notifications regularly.**

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. *Identify and explain the rationale behind government intervention in market economies and the different microeconomics principles related to it*
2. *Identify and apply relevant microeconomic principles related to government involvement in a market economy to real-life case studies.*
3. *Identify and analyze theoretical public finance topics with a focus on U.S.-based government expenditure programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.*
4. *Identify, describe and analyze the theoretical topics related to taxation.*

## Required Texts/Readings

**Recommended reading:** *Public Finance and Public Policy, 6th edition, Jonathan Gruber, Macmillan.*

**The course lectures are based on the textbook mentioned above.** Lecture slides, lecture videos, articles and any other reading materials will be posted on Canvas and will constitute the required learning material for this course. Students interested in furthering their knowledge may email me for additional reading material.

SJSU library liaison: Christa Perez Bailey (christa.bailey@sjsu.edu)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

**In this course, there are 8 modules, and each module will come with the corresponding lecture slides and a set of lecture videos. Please make sure to watch the videos in chronological order.**

**On Monday of each week the module for that week will become available for the students to review. Please see the Course Schedule for more details about the modules.**

The course grade will be based on the following:

1. Assignments (**8 quizzes associated with the 8 course modules**)
  2. One midterm examination (online; will be assigned **Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>** and will be due **Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>**)
  2. One final examination (online; will be assigned **Friday August 9<sup>th</sup>** and will be due **Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>**)
  4. Participation in online discussions on Canvas.
- **Assignments** on Canvas will mainly have multiple-choice questions (i.e., quizzes), and will be associated with the material covered in a particular module. You will receive a few days to work on a quiz.
  - **All examinations** (the midterm and the final) are online **take-home exams** and will be conducted on Canvas. They **may** contain a combination of multiple-choice type questions and questions that require short/medium-length answers. Some components of the examinations may be timed (e.g., the multiple-choice segment). **All exams will be posted on Canvas and will also be submitted via Canvas.**
  - **Participation grades** will be based on your engagement in any online discussions, any student surveys, or any questions posted on Canvas.

## Grading Information

Course grades will be as follows:

Quizzes:	30%
1 Midterm Exam:	30%
1 Final Exam:	35%
Canvas discussions/participation:	<u>5%</u>
	100%

Grade	Percentage
A plus	98 to 100%
A	94 to 97%
A minus	90 to 93%
B plus	86 to 89 %
B	83 to 85%
B minus	80 to 82%
C plus	76 to 79%
C	73 to 75%
C minus	70 to 72%
D plus	66 to 69%
D	63 to 65%
D minus	60 to 62%

## Final Examination or Evaluation

The final evaluation for this course will be a take-home final examination which will be a cumulative or a culminating activity based on the course material covered in the summer session. Students will receive ample time to submit their answers to the take-home final exam. The final examination will be very similar in structure to the midterm examination.

## University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

I will follow the [SJSU policy regarding academic integrity](#) and honesty, and will take it very seriously. Please read and understand what constitutes a violation in this respect and all instances of academic dishonesty will be reported by me.

Please come and talk to me as soon as you can if you are in need of any course changes, adaptations or any accommodations due to a disability. According to the [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center \(AEC\)](#) at <https://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following university policies:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)
- [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf)
- [University Grading System Policy F18-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf)

You may also find the following information useful:

- [SJSU Cares](#)
- [The SJSU Food Pantry Program](#)
- [SJSU Counseling](#)
- [SJSU Learn Anywhere](#)

## ECON 132-01, 61 Summer 2024 Course Schedule

*If any changes must be made to the syllabus, those changes will be communicated to all students in Canvas.*

A timely notice and consideration will be provided to all students if any changes need to be made.

Week #	Week beginning	Topics	Notes
<b>1</b>	<b>June 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Introduction to the course and syllabus</b>	<b>First day of instruction: Mon 6/3</b>
		Module 1: Introduction to Public Finance, Equilibrium and Welfare	
<b>2</b>	<b>June 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 2: Externality Theory & Applications (Economics of Addictive Behavior)	
<b>3</b>	<b>June 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 3: Theory of Public Goods and Education in the United States	
<b>4</b>	<b>June 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 4: Topics in Political Economy	
<b>5</b>	<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Midterm Exam (will be based on Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4)</b>	<b>due Friday July 5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>6</b>	<b>July 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 5: Social Insurance & Moral Hazard	
<b>7</b>	<b>July 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 6: Health Insurance & Healthcare in the United States	
<b>8</b>	<b>July 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Module 7: Social Security	
<b>9</b>	<b>July 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 8: Taxation: Introduction, Equity and Efficiency Implications	
<b>10</b>	<b>August 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Final exam (will be based on Modules 5, 6, 7 and 8)</b>	<b>due Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup></b>

## **SJSU Land Acknowledgement:**

San José State University and Surrounding Region Thámien Ancestral Muwekma Ohlone Territory.

The San José State University community recognizes that the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, with an enrolled Bureau of Indian Affairs documented membership of over 550, is comprised of all of the known surviving American Indian lineages aboriginal to the San Francisco Bay region who trace their ancestry through the Missions Santa Clara, San José, and Dolores, during the advent of the Hispano- European empire into Alta California; and who are the successors and living members of the sovereign, historic, previously Federally Recognized Verona Band of Alameda County.

Furthermore, the San José State University community recognizes that the university is established within the Thámien Ohlone-speaking tribal ethnohistoric territory, which based upon the unratified federal treaties of 1851-1852, includes the unceded ancestral lands of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. Some of the enrolled Muwekma lineages are descended from direct ancestors from the Thámien Ohlone tribal territory whose ancestors had affiliation with Mission Santa Clara.

The San José State University community also recognizes the importance of this land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone people of this region, and consistent with our principles of community and diversity strives to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe whose land we occupy.