



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Public Finance	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Assist. Dr. Laura Dargenytė-Kacilevičienė	Vilnius University Siauliai Academy

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First cycle	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face to face	Spring semester	Lithuanian / English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: Macroeconomics 1	Co-requisites (if relevant):

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	134	53	81

Purpose of the course unit		
To obtain knowledge about the importance of public finances and the role of the government in regulating market failures. To understand the budgetary system, the structure and the principles of budget formation at the state, municipal and European Union levels. To understand the essence of externalities, public goods and cost-benefit analysis, the tax system, the main principles of taxation, and the state borrowing mechanism. To acquire the ability to collect, analyze and present the statistical data of public finances, necessary for solving significant economic and social problems, using the achievements and methods of fundamental and applied scientific research.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Ability to explain the importance of public finance and the role of the government in regulating economic and social processes in the economy. Ability to apply knowledge in analyzing the structure and the principles of budget formation at the state, municipal and European Union levels.	Discussion, Formal lecture, Group work	Control work, individual work and its presentation, the exam
Knowledge and ability to explain the essence of externalities, public goods, and cost-benefit analysis in public finances. The ability to apply acquired knowledge in cost-benefit analysis.	Information retrieval task, literature analysis, practical tasks, traditional lecture	Control work, individual work and its presentation, the exam
Ability to analyze the state tax system, knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of optimal taxation, labor force, business, and consumption taxation, understanding the essence of the public debt and its impact on the country's economy. The ability to analyze the indicators of public debt.	Group work, discussion, information retrieval task, literature analysis, practical tasks, traditional lecture	Control work, individual work and its presentation, the exam

Ability to collect and analyse statistical data of public finance required for solving important economic and social problems, using fundamental and applied research achievements and methods.	Group work, discussion, information retrieval task, literature analysis, practical tasks, traditional lecture	Control work, individual work and its presentation, the exam
Ability to express ideas orally and in writing, rendering knowledge and understanding to specialists and non-specialists, to discuss relevant issues of state finance in a professional and interdisciplinary environment.	Group work, discussion, information retrieval task, literature analysis, practical tasks, traditional lecture	Control work, individual work and its presentation, the exam
Ability to critically and constructively assess one's own and colleagues' professional performance, to independently make decisions in analysed situations, ability to continuously develop learning skills, and to rationally plan activities of the learning process.	Group work, discussion, information retrieval task, literature analysis, practical tasks, traditional lecture	Control work, individual work and its presentation, the exam
Ability to collect and analyse statistical data on state finance required for solution of important economic and social problems, using fundamental and applied research achievements and methods.	Information retrieval task, literature analysis	Control work, individual homework and its presentation, the exam

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. Introduction to Public Finance: the importance of public finances, the role of the government in the economy, state budget and budget deficit.	4	0		2			6	6	Literature analysis (Gruber, 2016; 1 Ch. and 4 Ch.). Preparation for control work and individual work.
2. Externalities and Public goods	3	0		2			5	5	Literature analysis (Gruber, 2016; 5 Ch., 6 Ch., 7 Ch.). Preparation for control work and individual work.
3. Cost-Benefit Analysis.	3	0		2			5	5	Literature analysis (Gruber, 2016; 8 Ch.). Preparation for control work and individual work.
4. State and Local Government Incomes and Expenditures.	4	0		3			7	7	Literature analysis (Gruber, 2016; 10 Ch). Information retrieval task. Preparation for control work and individual work.
5. Control work		2		2			4	4	
6. The budget and the financial support of the European Union.	1			2			3		Information retrieval task. Preparation for

									individual work and exam.
7. Taxation and Tax Incidence.	3	0		2			5	5	Literature analysis (Gruber, 2016; 18 Ch. and 19 Ch.), Information retrieval task. Preparation for individual work and exam.
8. Optimal Taxation.	2	0		2			4	4	Literature analysis (Gruber, 2016; 20 Ch.). Preparation for individual work and exam.
9. Labor Supply, Corporate and Consumption Taxation	3	0		2			5	5	Literature analysis (Gruber, 2016; 21 Ch., 24 Ch., and 25 Ch.). Preparation for individual work and exam.
10. Public Debt	3	0		2			5	5	Information retrieval task. Preparation for individual work and exam.
11. Exam		2		2			4		
12. Individual work								35	Preparation of individual work
Total:	26	4		23			53	81	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Individual work (10 p.) and its presentation (7–10 minutes).	30	Last week of the semester	Throughout the semester, every student prepares one individual work in compliance with the list of themes on the subject. A particular topic is chosen by a student from a presented list. In writing a paper, it is recommended to follow all requirements set for the paperwork (constituent parts of a paper, citation, layout, etc.). A prepared paper must be submitted on time. The paper is assessed in a 10-point system. Assessment criteria: 10 – 9 points. Properly formulated and expressed goals and objectives. Problematic questions are raised. Connections with theoretical concepts are indicated. Comprehensive and creative use of research materials, global databases. The work demonstrates the student's creativity and innovative thinking. The conclusions correspond to the set goal and tasks, are logical and detailed. During the presentation, the student speaks freely, does not use notes, presents essential results. The thought means clearly, demonstrates its competence in the matter under consideration. Does not exceed the time limit, answers the questions asked. Assessment criteria: 8 – 7 points. The goals are formulated, but the objectives are not sufficiently clearly expressed. Only one problematic issue has been raised. Connections with theoretical concepts are indicated, research materials used, and global databases are

			used. The conclusions correspond to the set goal and objectives, but are not detailed enough. During the presentation, the student speaks quite freely, only occasionally uses notes, and presents the main results. The thought expresses itself clearly, but only partially demonstrates its competence in the matter at hand. Does not follow the set time limit, answers only part of the questions asked. Assessment criteria: 6 – 5 points. The goals are formulated, but the tasks are not sufficiently clearly expressed. Problematic questions are not raised. Connections with theoretical concepts are not disclosed, and the material of the conducted research is used sparingly. The conclusions only partially meet the set goal, they are not comprehensive. During the presentation, the student constantly uses notes. Thinks clearly when reading notes, but is unable to speak fluently. Only partially demonstrates their competence in the subject matter. Does not follow the set time limit, answers only part of the questions asked. Assessment criteria: 4 – 1 points. The work does not meet the minimum requirements of the assignment. The student reads from notes, is unable to present the main results. During the presentation, the student does not respect the time limit, is unable to answer the questions asked. In order to achieve a higher grade, students are given the opportunity to improve their written work taking into account the comments and suggestions made by the teacher and colleagues during the presentation of the work. Dates for presentations of written works are coordinated with students during the first classes.
Control work	20	After four topics	The control work consists of closed-type test questions (of varying difficulty). The score depends on the number of correct answers. Each correct answer is worth 0.333 points. You need to answer 15 out of 30 questions correctly to get the minimum score.
Exam	50	Exam session	The exam consists of 35 closed-type test questions. The score depends on the number of correct answers. Each correct answer to a closed question is worth 0.285 points. To get the minimum assessment (5 points) you need to answer 18 questions out of 35 correctly. Control work and individual homework should be done in order to take the examination.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Gruber, J.	(2016)	Public finance and Public Policy	5 th edition	Macmillan
Recommended reading				
Stiglitz, J.	(2000)	Economics of the Public Sector		W.W. Norton
Freire, M.E., Garzón, H.	(2014)	Municipal Finances		The World Bank. Washington. Prieiga internetu: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/18725
Gilbert, N., Terrell, P.	(2014)	Dimensions of social welfare policy	8 th edition	Harlow: Pearson