

EMPIRICAL PUBLIC ECONOMICS Empirische Finanzwissenschaft und Wirtschaftspolitik SS 2011

2 SWS VL (Lectures) + 1 SWS Ü (Classes)

The course covers important topics and methodological approaches in empirical public economics. The aim of the course is to teach students how to interpret empirical research in public economics and to apply modern econometric methods commonly used in the field. Topics covered include: How do taxes affect individual and firm behavior, what are the incentive effects of government expenditure programs, the effects of market regulation, and how to estimate the welfare effects of government programs. Empirical approaches covered in the course include both structural and non-structural estimation methodologies. Students will learn about: Identification of Causal Effects, Simultaneity and Instrumental Variable Estimation, Natural Experiments and Panel Data Analysis, Selectivity and Treatment Effects Estimation, Ex-ante Policy Evaluation and Microsimulation, Empirical Welfare Analysis. These approaches are illustrated using examples from the empirical public economics literature.

Lectures/ Classes:	Prof. Steiner
Location:	Boltzmannstr. 20, SR 328
Time:	Weekly, Thursday, 14.30 – 17.00
Requirements:	The course assumes knowledge of econometrics including some experience with data analysis (as provided by the core course Econometric Analysis or my Microeconometrics course both offered in the Master in Economics / Master in Public Economics program).
Credit points:	M.Sc. Public Economics: Core course (Pflichtveranstaltung) M.Sc. Economics: Selective course (Wahlveranstaltung), only available for students enrolled before the winter term 2010/11 VWL Diplom: Core course (4 BP) for Economic Policy (Volkswirtschaftspolitik), not together with Ökonometrie, and selective course (4 BP) for Econometrics (Ökonometrie)
Grading:	2 hours' final exam (70%), homeworks and presentation in class (30%)
Literature:	lecture notes and core articles in the field made available under FU Learning Blackboard