Professor Emmanuel Saez (1st half)
Evans Hall 623, saez@econ.berkeley.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 12pm-2pm
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(office hours by appointment)

PUBLIC ECONOMICS 230B:
LECTURE SCHEDULE SPRING 2015

This course covers material on (I) labor income taxation: behavioral responses to taxes and transfers, optimal income taxation and redistribution, (II) Taxes, savings, and investment, (III) Local public finance.

Syllabus, lecture slides (with links to readings), and problem sets are all posted online at: http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~saez/course/course.html (1st half)

Class meetings: Mondays 10am-12pm, Room 639 Evans Hall

Prerequisites: First year graduate microeconomics (Economics 201A,B), First year graduate econometrics (Economics 240A), and first public sector microeconomics class 230A.

Requirements: Three problem sets (30% of the grade), one referee report (10% of the grade). Final examination is on Monday May 4 (review week), 10am-12pm, room 639 Evans Hall (60% of the grade).
The GSI Youssef Benzarti will be in charge of grading assignments. Feel free to email Youssef directly for any questions related to assignments.
You should print your problem set and hand it in in class or put it in paper format in Youssef's mailbox in front of the Peixotto room within 1 hour of the end of the class.

Readings: For each lecture, online slides include all references at the back with web links. References in **bold** are **required** reading.

Section I: Labor Income Taxation and Redistribution (SAEZ)

IA: Theoretical Aspects: Optimal Income Taxation and Redistribution

1	January 26	Problem of redistribution and current US income tax and transfers
2	February 2	Optimal income taxation
3	February 9	Optimal transfer programs

IB: Empirical Aspects: Behavioral Responses to Taxes and Transfers

4	February 23	Labor supply responses to taxation and transfers (PS 1 due)

5	March 2	Responses of taxable income to tax rates
6	March 9	Tax evasion and tax enforcement

Section II: Taxes, Saving, and Investment (YAGAN)

7	March 16	Capital Income Taxation: Facts and Optimal Policy (PS 2 due)
8	March 30	Taxation, Corporate Financial Policy, and Business Investment
9	April 6	Social Security and Disability Insurance (referee report due)
10	April 13	Taxation and Household Saving

Section III: Local Public Finance (YAGAN)

11	April 20	Property Taxation, the Tiebout Model, and Education Finance
12	April 27	Place-Based Policies and Capitalization (PS 3 due)