

UC Berkeley
Department of Economics
Fall 2017

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ECONOMICS 230A
PUBLIC SECTOR MICROECONOMICS

This is the first of two courses in the Public Economics sequence. It will begin by covering core material on public choice and taxation and then move on to consider capital income taxation and its effects on the behavior of households and firms, social insurance, and local public finance. Economics 230B, the second semester in the sequence, will consider more fully the general optimal income tax problem, the institutional characteristics of important taxes, tax evasion, and wealth distribution.

Class meetings: Tuesdays 9-11, 639 Evans Hall, Aug. 29 - Nov. 28

Office hours: AA: Mondays, 10:00-11:30, and by appointment
DY: Mondays, 9:45-11:45, and by appointment

Prerequisites: This course should normally be taken after the completion of first-year Ph. D. courses in economic theory and econometrics. Students with other backgrounds should consult one of the instructors.

Requirements:

Problem sets (2)	30%
Paper (app. 5 page review of two papers, due December 8)	20%
Final examination (December 13, 11:30-2:30)	50%

Lecture Schedule:

AA:	8/29, 9/5, 12, 19, 26, 10/3, 10
DY:	10/17, 24, 31, 11/7, 14, 21, 28