

UC Berkeley  
Department of Economics  
Fall 2020

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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.

All course materials will be provided through bCourses. Attendance at remote class meetings is limited to those with access through bCourses.

**Class meetings:** Tuesdays 9-11, Sep. 1 – Dec. 1 via Zoom

**Office hours:** AA: Mondays, 10:00-11:30, and by appointment  
DY: 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.

<b>Requirements:</b>	Problem sets (2)	30%
	Paper (app. 5 page review of two papers, due December 11)	20%
	Final examination	50%

**Lecture Schedule:** AA: 9/1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10/6, 13  
DY: 10/20, 27, 11/3, 10, 17, 24, 12/1