UC Berkeley
Department of Economics
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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 the efficiency and incidence of taxation and then move on to consider capital income taxation and some of its effects on the behavior of households and firms, environmental policy, place-based policies, and local public finance. Economics 230B, the second semester in the sequence, will consider the institutional characteristics and behavioral responses of important taxes and social insurance programs and policies to address inequality.

Class meetings: Tuesdays 1-3, Aug. 31 – Nov. 30

Office hours: AA: Mondays, 10:00-11:30, and by appointment
RW: Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00, 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 11)	20%
Final examination	50%

Lecture schedule: AA: 8/31, 9/7, 14, 21, 28, 10/5, 12
RW: 10/19, 26, 11/2, 9, 16, 23, 30