

**35856 Topics in Public Economics - Environmental Economics**

<b>module number</b>
35856
<b>module title</b>
Topics in Public Economics
<b>module coordinator</b>
Prof. Dr. Stefan Bauernschuster

<b>examination number</b>	<b>credit points (ECTS)</b>	<b>hours per week (SWS)</b>
212121	7	2
<b>availability</b>	<b>duration</b>	<b>recommended semester</b>
Summer semester	1 semester	4

<b>workload</b>
Seminar 2 SWS (30 hours class instruction; 180 hours self-study)
Calculation is based on: every hr./sem.-week corresponds to 60 minutes. One semester is presumed to be 15 weeks, i.e. 14 course + 1 exam week
<b>module applicability</b>
Schwerpunkt Economics
<b>reference to the LPO I</b>
<b>recommended requirements</b>
Basic knowledge in microeconomics and statistics/econometrics
<b>obligatory requirements</b>
Basic knowledge in public economics, in particular allocation theory (as provided, e.g., in the module „Marktversagen und Wirtschaftspolitik“)
<b>language</b>
English

<b>content</b>
Negative externalities such as environmental pollution result in suboptimal allocation of resources in free markets. Specific environmental policies can in principle bring about Pareto improvements for the society. However, not all well-intended policies have positive effects; some might even be counterproductive. This seminar delivers a comprehensive introduction to the field of Environmental Economics. Starting from the question why and how we should evaluate the environment, we deal for example with the monetary and non-monetary costs of climate change, the impact of air and water pollution on health, education, and productivity, or the problem of overfishing and the role of climate change for inter-group conflict. Based on these insights, we evaluate traditional environmental policies such as carbon taxes, emission trading schemes, road pricing schemes, the expansion of public transport and subsidies of e-mobility but also non-price measures inspired by behavioural insights.
<b>intended learning outcomes (ILOs)</b>
Students who have successfully participated in the module are able to

- outline the relevant literature (theoretical and empirical) in the field of environmental economics related to their specific topic
- identify key findings in the literature, discuss disagreements, evaluate advantages and disadvantages of different approaches
- assess how the literature contributes to a better understanding of the topic and consequently to policy debates
- discuss policy relevant topics in the field based on a solid theoretical and empirical foundation
- present the main results of their work in a term paper and oral presentation in a meaningful structure appropriate to the topic; in doing so, they adhere to the principles of good scientific practice and academic writing

**teaching methods**

Introductory sessions with interactive elements  
 Basic course on scientific writing  
 Basic course on literature research  
 Seminar as a blocked course with student presentations and discussions

**required attendance**

**examination (type of examination, scope)**

Portfolio (seminar thesis (15-20 pages), oral presentation (30 min), and discussion (5 min))

**overall grade relevance**

70% seminar thesis, 20% oral presentation, and 10% discussion

**possibility of retake exam**

**reading list**

A detailed list of introductory literature for each topic will be presented in the introductory session

**additional notes**

The discussion of another student's thesis is an essential part for the learning process in this seminar. The participants should not only analyze their assigned topic but be able to critically discuss related topics in the field. They should be able to quickly delve into these topics and show that they have gained general knowledge in environmental economics which goes beyond their assigned special topic.