



Faculty of Economic Sciences, Communication and IT  
Economics

## Syllabus

### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Economic Sciences, Communication and IT on 22 August 2012, and is valid from the Spring semester of 2013 at Karlstad University.

**Course Code:** NEGB23

**Public Economics and Politics, 7.5 ECTS Credits**

**(Offentlig ekonomi och politik, 7.5 Swedish credit points)**

**Degree Level:** Bachelor

**Progressive Specialisation:** G1F (First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements)

### Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is usually Swedish unless students or teachers are non-Swedish speakers, in which case the course is taught in English.

### Prerequisites

Economics 30 ECTS credits. English course B.

### Major Field of Study

NAA (Economics)

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

- understand the meaning of the concept economic efficiency and how the state can improve economic efficiency in situations of so called "market failures" in the form of collective goods and external effects,
- understand the logic of political acts, that is, politicians' attempts to maximize election probability, which can mean that politics may diverge from what would be optimal from the perspective of society,
- understand the motives of political interest groups,
- apply acquired knowledge to a problem in public finance and politics and present the result orally and in writing.

### Content and Form of Instruction

The course deals with the subject public finance and politics. It starts with a discussion of economic efficiency and motives for public intervention in the market economy. Collective goods and external effects are, for instance, discussed as are motives for income distribution via taxation and subsidies and their consequences for economic efficiency. The structure of the tax system is studied from the perspectives of efficiency and politics. Theories of the motives of interest groups and those of political parties and politicians are examined. Different perspectives are combined and compared in order to explain the growth of the public sector. The course is concluded by student group reports on a current issue in the field, which are presented and discussed in seminars.

### Reading List

See separate document.

#### Examination

Assessment is based on a written exam and written and orally presented hand-in assignment.

#### Grades

One of the grades Fail, (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course.

#### Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

#### Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

#### Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

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