

**Professor Emmanuel Saez (1<sup>st</sup> half)**  
Evans Hall 623, [saez@econ.berkeley.edu](mailto:saez@econ.berkeley.edu)  
**Office Hours: Mondays 10am-12pm**  
**Professor Gabriel Zucman (2<sup>nd</sup> half)**  
Evans Hall 647, [zucman@gmail.com](mailto:zucman@gmail.com)  
**GSI: Yotam Shem-Tov, [shemtov@berkeley.edu](mailto:shemtov@berkeley.edu)**  
**(office hours by appointment)**

**PUBLIC ECONOMICS 230B:  
LECTURE SCHEDULE SPRING 2017**

This course covers material on (I) labor income taxation: behavioral responses to taxes and transfers, optimal income taxation and redistribution, (II) Taxes, savings, and investment, (III) Local public finance.

Syllabus, lecture slides (with links to readings), and problem sets are all posted online at:  
<http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~saez/course/course.html> (1st half Saez)  
<http://gabriel-zucman.eu/econ230/> (2<sup>nd</sup> half Zucman)

**Class meetings:** Mondays 12pm-2pm, Room 648 Evans Hall

**Prerequisites:** First year graduate microeconomics (Economics 201A,B), First year graduate econometrics (Economics 240A), and first public sector microeconomics class 230A.

**Requirements:** Three problem sets (30% of the grade), one referee report (10% of the grade). Final examination is on Monday May 2 (review week), 12pm-2pm, room 648 Evans Hall (60% of the grade).

The GSI Yotam Shem-Tov is in charge of all grading assignments. Feel free to email Yotam directly for any questions related to assignments.

You should print your problem set and hand it in in class or put it in paper format in Yotam's mailbox in front of the Peixotto room within 1 hour of the end of the class.

**Readings:** For each lecture, online slides include all references at the back with web links. References in **bold** are **required** reading.

**Section I: Labor Income Taxation and Redistribution (SAEZ)**

**IA: Theoretical Aspects: Optimal Income Taxation and Redistribution**

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| 1 | January 23 | Introduction and current US income tax and transfers |
| 2 | January 30 | Optimal income taxation                              |
| 3 | February 6 | Optimal transfer programs                            |

**IB: Empirical Aspects: Behavioral Responses to Taxes and Transfers**

- |   |             |   |
|---|-------------|---|
| 4 | February 13 | Labor supply responses to taxation and transfers (PS 1 due) |
| 5 | February 27 | Responses of taxable income to tax rates                    |

**IC: Social Insurance and Labor Supply**

- |   |         |  |
|---|---------|--|
| 6 | March 6 | Social Security and Disability Insurance |
|---|---------|--|

**Section II: Wealth Inequality and Capital Taxation (ZUCMAN)**

- |    |          |  |
|----|----------|--|
| 7  | March 13 | The structure of inequality, taxes, and transfers (PS 2 due)         |
| 8  | March 20 | Models of the wealth distribution                                    |
| 9  | April 3  | Capital taxation over time and across countries (referee report due) |
| 10 | April 10 | The challenges of taxing capital in a globalized world               |
| 11 | April 17 | Tax evasion  |
| 12 | April 24 | Taxation in developing countries (PS 3 due)                          |