SYLLABUS 2026-2027

Introduction to Taxation

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Module Code	2627_DFC_1_EN_051
Campus	Oxford
Department(s)	Law, Finance and Control
Level / Semester	Undergraduate Year 2 (U2); Equivalent to FHEQ level 5 Semester 04
Language of Instruction	English
Teaching Method	☒ In-person (face-to-face) ☐ Distance learning (live online) ☐ e-Learning (asynchronous) ☐ Hybrid: ______________________________
Pre-requisite(s)?	None
ECTS *Reminder: 1 ECTS = between 20 and 30hr- student workload*	2
Equivalent FHEQ credits	4
Study Hours	50 hours which comprise of 14 directed learning and 36 independent learning/assessment hours

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module Aims	This module offers a foundational overview of key taxation principles. It begins with the general functions and objectives of taxation before exploring in greater detail the Value Added Tax (VAT), Personal Income Tax (PIT), and Corporate Income Tax (CIT). The module also provides the analytical tools necessary to evaluate environmental taxation schemes and international tax frameworks.
Teaching Arrangement	The module is delivered through frontal lectures, in-class exercises,

	and group work.
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this module, students should be able to: 1. Identify and explain the main types of taxes and their roles in economic systems 2. Analyse and compute basic tax liabilities for individuals and businesses under VAT, PIT, and CIT frameworks, and with a local approach 3. Evaluate the structure and impact of environmental and international taxation policies on private and corporate decision-making
Competency Goals *(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)*	PGE_U_CG07 - Students will have a global and sustainable performance mindset
Alignment with Programme Learning Goals	PGE_U_CG07_LO02 - To apply legal, regulatory, and sustainability standards to ensure responsible business practices

SESSION TOPICS / MODULE SCHEDULE

(Please note, a session/sequence may be more than one scheduled class)

Session 1: Introduction and Taxonomy of Taxes

Content:

- Definitions
- Taxonomy:
  - Direct vs. indirect taxes
  - Unit vs. valorem
  - Tax base

References:

- Butler, E. (2024) *An introduction to taxation*. London, United Kingdom: The Institute of Economic Affairs. (Chapters 1 & 2)
- Frecknall-Hughes, J. (2015) *The theory, principles and management of taxation: An introduction*. Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge. (Chapters 1 & 4)

Session 2: Tax Policy, Tax Purposes, and Public Finance

Content:

- Purposes of taxation
- Public goods and services
- Tax evaluation: efficiency, neutrality, and equity

References:

- Butler, E. (2024) *An introduction to taxation*. London, United Kingdom: The Institute of Economic Affairs. (Chapter 3)
- Frecknall-Hughes, J. (2015) *The theory, principles and management of taxation: An introduction*. Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge. (Chapters 1 & 4)

Session 3: Taxation and Economic Behaviour

Content:

- Tax incidence
- Behavioural responses to taxation
- Tax compliance and enforcement
- Tax avoidance and tax evasion

References:

- Butler, E. (2024) *An introduction to taxation*. London, United Kingdom: The Institute of Economic Affairs. (Chapters 4 & 8)

Session 4: The Personal Income Tax

Content:

- Definitions
- Tax brackets and progressivity
- Tax residency principles
- Allowances and tax credits
- Accounting for the PIT

References:

- Official website of local tax authorities

Session 5: The Value Added Tax (VAT)

Content:

- Definition of VAT
- Mechanism of VAT
- Accounting for VAT
- EU and international VAT frameworks

References:

- Official website of local tax authorities

Session 6: The Corporate Income Tax

Content:

- Definitions
- General principles
  - Add-backs and deductions
- Depreciation, carry-forwards
- Advanced topics:
  - Parent-subsidiary schemes
  - Financial instruments

References:

- Official website of local tax authorities

Session 7: International Taxation

Content:

- Cross-border taxation
- Transfer pricing
- Double taxation and tax havens
- OECD guidelines

References:

- Butler, E. (2024) *An introduction to taxation*. London, United Kingdom: The Institute of Economic Affairs. (Chapter 5)
- Official website of local tax authorities

Session 8: Environmental Tax for Individuals and Corporations

Content:

- Carbon pricing:
  - Carbon taxes
  - Emission Trading Systems
- Fuel and energy taxes
- Plastic, waste, and pollution charges

References:

- Official website of local tax authorities

KEY TEXTS

1. Butler, E. (2024) *An introduction to taxation*. London, United Kingdom: The Institute of Economic Affairs.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. Frecknall-Hughes, J. (2015) *The theory, principles and management of taxation: An introduction*. Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge.

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment (40%)	Oral presentation	20%
	Written assessment	20%
Final Exam (60%)	Closed-book written exam	

MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *Mariem Khalfaoui*
- Reviewer: *TBC*
- External Reviewer: *Qurat-ul-ain Chohan*

Last reviewed: 23/09/2026