



Course Syllabus

Public Economics
University of Florida
Fall 2013

Class Information

- Course: Public Economics, ECO 4504, Section 1134
- Location: STZ 101
- Class Times: Monday/Wednesday, 11:45–12:35 & 12:50–1:40
- Textbook: “Public Finance and Public Policy”, Jonathan Gruber (4th Edition)

Instructor

- Name: Lindsey Woodworth
- E-Mail: lwoodworth@ufl.edu
- Office: MAT 329
- Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30–5:00pm

Course Description

This course is intended to provide students with a general understanding of government behavior as it relates to the economy. Concepts are primarily considered in the context of the U.S. federal government and include political formation, spending decisions, and taxation policies. Both theoretical and mathematical approaches are used in the analysis.

Assignments & Grading

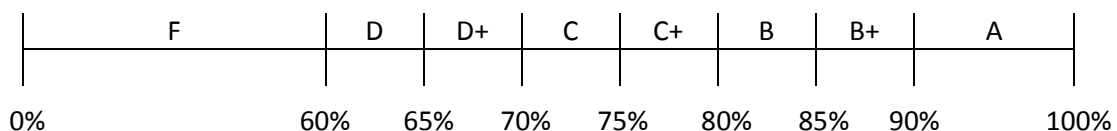
Homework (40%):

There will be four homework assignments. Students are expected to submit their own work. Late homework will not be accepted without special permission.

Exams (60% total, 30% each):

A midterm will be administered following Unit 3. A non-cumulative final exam will be held on the last day of class (i.e., Wednesday, December 4). Exams will cover only the material discussed in class and/or presented in the homework. If unable to attend an exam, the student must notify the instructor before the day of the exam in order to receive a make-up opportunity.

Final Grades:



Tentative Course Outline & Calendar

The course material will be presented in the following order. If time restraints prevent any of the material from being covered in class, then students will not be held responsible for those items.

1. Introduction

- a) The Four Questions of Public Economics Chpt. 1
- b) The Tools of Public Economics Chpts. 2, 3

2. Government Formation

- a) Voting Chpt. 9
- b) The Budgetary Process Chpt. 4

3. Government Spending

- a) State and Local Expenditures Chpt. 10
- b) Public Goods Chpt. 7
- c) Education Chpt. 11
- d) Social Security Chpt. 13
- e) Health Insurance Chpts. 15, 16
- f) Welfare Programs Chpt. 17

4. Government Revenue

- a) Optimal Taxation and Inefficiencies Chpt. 20
- b) Externalities & Corrective Taxation Chpt. 5
- c) Tax Incidence Chpt. 19
- d) Individual Income Taxes Chpt. 18
- e) Taxes on Labor Chpt. 21
- f) Taxes on Savings Chpt. 22
- g) Taxes on Risk Taking and Wealth Chpt. 23
- h) Corporate Taxation Chpt. 24

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
August					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21 1a	22	23	24
	25	26 1b	27	28 2a	29	30	31
September	1	2 Labor Day	3	4 2a	5	6	7
	8	9 2b	10	11 3a	12	13	14
	15	16 3b	17	18 3b	19	20	21
	22	23 3c	24	25 3d	26	27	28
	29	30 3e	1	2 3e	3	4	5
	6	7 3f	8	9 Review	10	11	12
October	13	14 Exam	15	16 Meme	17	18	19
	20	21 4a	22	23 4a	24	25	26
	27	28 4b	29	30 4c	31	1	2
	3	4 4d	5	6 4e	7	8	9
November	10	11 Vets Day	12	13 4f	14	15	16
	17	18 4g	19	20 4h	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	1	2 Review	3	4 Exam	5	6	7
December	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

Topic Covered	Class held
Exam	Exam Day

Rules!

1. Be respectful of the other students and the instructor.
2. No open laptops during lectures without special permission.
3. If unable to attend class, it is the student's responsibility to obtain lecture notes and request homework.
4. Turn in only YOUR OWN work.

All University of Florida rules apply. UF's policy on academic honesty will be strongly enforced.