



ECON 325 A02
Public Economics
14234

Fall Session: First Term 2022 09

Instructor Name: Shannon Pendergast

E-Mail: smramage@uvic.ca

Office: BEC 318

Office Hours: Thursdays, 5:30-6:20

Course Content

This course provides a general introduction to the economics of government expenditures and taxation. We will consider the role of government in the economy and use economic analysis to predict and verify the effect of government intervention on the behaviour of individuals, households and firms. We will discuss the implications of policy for efficiency and equity. Throughout the course, relevant Canadian and British Columbia public policy will be discussed.

Textbook

The textbook for this course is optional and the choice depends on your individual learning style. The textbook used is "Public Finance in Canada" (fifth edition) by Rosen, Gayer, Wen and Snodden. *Note: You may also use the third or fourth edition of the text, although page numbers for readings will be different and some content is not covered in the third edition.*

Some sections of the text are more difficult than required for this course and will **not** be suggested reading. **For each chapter covered, specific chapter sections and page numbers that are suggested for this course will be listed in Brightspace.**

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows: Evaluation in this course will consist of two midterms and a comprehensive final exam. Exams will be held according to the schedule listed below. The determination of your final grade for the course will be based on:

Item	Weight
Midterm 1	25%
Midterm 2	25%
Final exam	45%
Best exam*	5%
Total	100%

*This additional 5% will be automatically allocated to either midterm 1, midterm 2, or the final exam, depending on which one you receive the highest score.

To receive a passing grade, you **must** write at least one of the midterms and the final exam. Failure to complete at least one midterm and the final exam will result an "N" grade. (For clarity, note that this does not mean that you should not do one of the midterms, because not completing an exam will significantly lower your overall grade.)

Midterm(s): The midterm exams are scheduled for Thursday, October 6 and Thursday, November 3.

Final exam: Second Term (April) exam timetables are posted at the end of February.

Grading Scale:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F or N
90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	50-59	0-49

Students should review the University's more detailed [summary of grading](#).

Brightspace

- Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system.
- The lecture notes will be posted in Brightspace. Please note that these lecture notes are only high-level outlines of the actual lecture content.
- All announcements will be posted in Brightspace. Students are advised to check it frequently.
- Following lectures, I am also generally able to provide pdf copies of the diagrams and examples we work through together in class. These are provided **as a courtesy** and should not be viewed as a substitute for attending lectures.

Course Schedule

Date	Schedule	Topic
Sep 8	Lecture 1	Introduction to Public Finance & The Economic Role of Government
Sep 15	Lecture 2	Public Choice
Sep 22	Lecture 3	Public Goods
Sep 29	Lecture 4	Externalities
Oct 6	Midterm 1 & Lecture 5	Midterm 1: Covers Lectures 1-4 Taxation: Evaluating Equity
Oct 13	Lecture 6	Taxation: Evaluating Efficiency
Oct 20	Lecture 7	Personal Income Tax
Oct 27	Lecture 8	Consumption Taxes
Nov 3	Midterm 2 & Lecture 9	Midterm 2: Covers Lectures 5-8 Taxes on Wealth and Property
Nov 10	No class	Reading Break
Nov 17	Lecture 10	Health Care & Education
Nov 24	Lecture 11	Public Pensions & Employment Insurance
Dec 1	Lecture 12	Income Redistribution & Social Welfare Programs
TBD	Final Exam	Covers Lectures 1-12

E-mail correspondence

Please limit email correspondence to administrative and urgent issues. Please see me during office hours for other questions.

Public policy discussion

Throughout the course I will encourage you to extend your learning by considering current public policy issues. You are encouraged to ask questions, share ideas, and participate in class discussions. I will encourage you to consider multiple viewpoints, with emphasis on an economist's perspective. At all times, we will maintain a non-judgemental atmosphere free from discrimination of any kind. All viewpoints are welcome.

Course Policies

In addition to the policies outlined above, this course [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

Examinations

Students will be required to present valid student ID at the midterm and final exams.

Attendance at all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the [University Calendar](#).

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not show up in the first seven calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course, and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

You will be asked to sign a pledge of integrity on each exam/assignment that you undertake online.

Review [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness

The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

See [General University Policies](#)

Accessibility & Health Resources

Centre for Accessible Learning

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Counselling Services](#) - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[Elders' Voices](#) - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the [CES log-in](#). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

- What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

Electronic devices

Please turn your cell phone to silent (or, if absolutely necessary, to vibrate mode) before the start of each lecture. During exams, you are permitted to use a basic calculator that performs functions limited to addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, financial (e.g., present value) and/or scientific (e.g., exponents, trigonometry) functions. I reserve the right to use my discretion in determining the appropriateness of any student's calculator and to approve or deny its use during an exam.

The use of cell phones and all other electronic devices (including calculator functions or apps on your cell phone or other electronic device) is strictly forbidden during exams. Please leave all such devices in your bags and out of sight. If you are found using or looking at a cell phone or other electronic device during an exam, you will receive an automatic score of zero for that exam.

Educational Technology involving storage outside Canada

This course does not utilize educational technologies that store or access your personal information outside Canada. I will make you aware if this changes.

Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact svpcoordinator@uvic.ca.