About the Course

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to public economics, which is the study of the role of government in the economy. We will analyze the economic arguments for and against the public provision of goods such as education, health care, employment insurance and pensions. We will also look at the governments’ role in redistribution through the tax system. The goal will be to provide a balanced presentation of the topics and to challenge students to develop their own beliefs about the appropriate role of government.

Textbook


I will post some lecture slides, notes and other materials on the course website. Please note that lecture slides will be partial and you are responsible for all material covered in lecture.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 1 (February 13th, 5pm)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 2 (Tentatively March 20th, 5pm)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exams: The midterms are not cumulative while the final exam is cumulative.

There will be no make-up midterms. If a student has a valid reason for missing a midterm then the weight of that midterm will be shifted to the remaining one.

Deferred final exams will be given only on the basis of documented family illness or family afflictions. Documentation is required.

Grade concerns should be brought the instructor as soon as possible.
Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F or N</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students should review the University’s more detailed summary of grading.

Course Policies
This course adheres to the 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
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

Examinations
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.

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.

**CourseSpaces**
- CourseSpaces is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system.
- The lecture notes and additional materials will be posted in CourseSpaces. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.
- All announcements will be posted in CourseSpaces. Students are advised to check it frequently.

**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.

**Repeating Courses**
Be aware of the policy regarding the repeating of courses; see [University Calendar](#).

In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the **Repeating Courses** policy on the Economics website.
Failure to obtain permission will result in deregistration from the course.

**Course Schedule (Tentative)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Due Dates and Exam Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and Welfare Theorems</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Goods/Externalities</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externalities/Imperfect Information</td>
<td>5 &amp; 9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Midterm 1 (Feb. 13th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income and Wealth Inequality</td>
<td>6 &amp; 14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inequality/Taxation</td>
<td>14 &amp; 15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>15 &amp; 16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>9, 10, 11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Midterm 2 (March 20th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance/Equity</td>
<td>9,10,11,12,13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**E-mail correspondence**

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear…), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your full name and V#. Text message lingo should not be used.

**Electronic devices**

You are allowed to bring electronic devices to class to assist with your learning experience. However, please no disruptive activity. Also, no photography or filming of class material.