



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2014
Course:	Economics 355 [Canadian Public Finance]	Section:	01
Time:	W 18:00 – 20:45	Place:	ST 145
Instructor:	Dr. David R. Sabiston		
Office:	SS405	Telephone :	403-440-6546
Office hours:	W 17:15 – 17:45 or by appointment	E-mail:	sabiston@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

Required: Rosen, Harvey S., Wen, Jean-François, and Tracy Snoddon (2012). *Public Finance in Canada* (4th ed). McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited.

Required Readings:

Throughout the semester, additional required readings will be posted on the BlackBoard site.

Book(s) on Reserve:

Gruber, Jonathan. (2011). *Public Finance and Public Policy*. (3rd ed). Worth Publishers.

Stiglitz, Joseph. (2000). *Economics of the Public Sector*. (3rd ed). W.W. Norton & Company.

Weimer, David L., and Aidan R. Vining. (2011). *Policy Analysis*. (5th ed). Pearson Publishers.

Course Outline:

Public finance examines the role of government(s) in the economy. Combining theory, applications, and policy, this course focuses on the two central roles of governments: public expenditures and taxation. From a theoretical perspective, this course looks at the *microeconomic* roles of governments, namely the allocation of resources and the distribution of income. Applications and policies will address important and topical issues such as health care, employment insurance, education and progressive income taxation.

Course content includes, but is not limited to, the following text chapters in:

Part One: Introduction

Part Two: A Framework for the Analysis of Public Expenditure

Part Four: Public Expenditure in Canada

Part Five: A Framework for Tax Analysis

Part Six: The Canadian Revenue System

NOTE: Depending on time constraints, some topics may be added or deleted.

Course Requirements:

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Value</u>
Test #1	January 29th, 2014	20%
Test #2	March 5th, 2014	20%
Group Presentations/Essay	March 26 th & April 2 nd and 9 th , 2014	25%
Final Examination	Registrar Scheduled: December 9 - 19, 2013	<u>35%</u>
		100%

Tests

There will be two tests during the term; each test will be approximately 90 minutes in length and may consist of theoretical, mathematical, graphical, applied, and/or “readings” questions. **Make-up tests will not be given.** In cases of documented illness, documented family emergency, or documented religious observance, the weight of the test will be (1) equally divided between remaining test and the final examination, or (2) allotted fully to the final exam when the second test is not written.

Group Presentation/Essay

Groups (minimum of three and maximum of five) will present a topic and submit a short essay dealing with a (Canadian) public finance issue at the end of the semester. The framework, expectations, and content of these presentations will be discussed in class.

Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative and is 2 hours as scheduled by the Registrar’s office. More information will be provided towards the end of the term.

Blackboard:

I use the course BlackBoard site to post announcements and readings. Students are responsible for monitoring the BlackBoard site on a regular (i.e., weekly) basis.

Grade Determination:

All assessments are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis and converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalencies will apply:

A+	95 – 100	B	74 – 76	C-	60 – 63
A	88 – 94	B-	70 – 73	D+	56 – 59
A-	83 – 87	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 82	C	64 – 66	F	0 – 49

Notes:

Students seeking reappraisal of test should discuss their work with the Instructor *within fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. In the Department of Economics, we recommend that all students enrolled in the Fall session, should discuss their needs with the instructor of the course no later than *fourteen (14) days* after the start of this course.

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:

Emily Macphail
 Phone: 403-220-3911
 E-mail suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts)

Phone: 403-220-3913 Office: MSC 251
 E-mail arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.):

www.ucalgary.ca/sue

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting sue@ucalgary.ca.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call

them at 403-220-3580 or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at 403-220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support/online-writing-resources>

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333
Emergency Assembly Point: Professional Faculties Food Court

DS/mi
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