

Economics 355(01) Canadian Public Finance

Instructor:	Dr. David Sabiston	Lecture Location:	ST 145
Phone:	(403) 440-6546	Lecture Days/Time:	W 18:00 – 20:45
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Office:	SS405		
Office Hours:	W 17:15 – 17:45 or by appointment	Winter 2015	

Textbook(s):

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

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.

Desire2Learn: This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> using or through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that is used to distribute course-related information. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

NOTE: Throughout the semester, additional required readings will be posted on the D2L site.

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 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.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Value</u>
Test #1	February 4, 2015	20%
Test #2	March 11, 2015	25%
Participation	January 14, 2015 – April 15, 2015	15%
Final Examination*	Registrar Scheduled: April 18 – 29, 2015	<u>40%</u>
		100%

Tests

There will be two tests this semester; each test will be approximately 75 minutes in length and may consist of theoretical, mathematical, graphical, applied, and/or “readings” questions. **Make-up quizzes will not be given.** In cases of documented illness, documented family emergency, or documented religious observance, the weight of the test will be equally divided between the remaining test and the final exam (or allotted to the final examination in the case of test #2).

Participation

Participation includes attendance, participation in class, and demonstrated familiarity with the readings. Note: Each lecture missed (without documented reasons for the absence) results in a 5% deduction.

Final Examination*

The final exam is cumulative and is 2 hours in length as scheduled by the Registrar’s office. More information will be provided towards the end of the term. Note: You may replace the final exam with a group presentation on one of the Public Finance topics identified in the text. The criteria and expectations about the group presentation will be discussed in the first lecture on January 15, 2015.

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

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	F	0 – 49

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Non-programmable calculators will be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor *within fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.
- All students must comply with the regulations published in the University Calendar concerning “Intellectual Honesty,” “Examinations,” etc.
- 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. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:

Hana Kadri

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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 Arts Students' Centre 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, including program planning and advice.
- 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://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support>

Safewalk/Campus Security: 403 220 5333
Emergency Assembly Point: Professional Faculties Food Court

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