



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2014
Course:	Economics 611.48 [Empirical Public Finance]	Section:	01
Time:	MW 10:00 – 11:15	Place:	SS 403
Instructor:	Stefan Staubli		
Office:	SS 408	Telephone:	403 – 220-7893
Office Hours:	MW 15:00 – 16:30 (or by appointment); subject to change	E-mail:	sstaubli@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s): There is no required textbook or reading packet for this course. A detailed reading list and course calendar will be distributed during the first week of classes. Course readings will be made available through the course website or in class.

You may find the following books to be useful reference materials:

A. Atkinson and J. Stiglitz, Lectures on Public Economics, McGraw-Hill (1980)

A. Auerbach and M. Feldstein, eds., Handbook of Public Economics, North-Holland, volumes 1 (1985), 2 (1987), 3 (2002), 4 (2002), and 5 (2013). [Note: Full text online at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/handbooks/15734420>]

B. Salanié, The Economics of Taxation, MIT Press (2003)

J. Gruber, Public Finance and Public Policy, Worth Publishers (any edition).

Course Outline:

Economics 611 focuses on learning techniques that can be applied to produce original research and to critically analyze existing research in the field of public economics. The course will emphasize empirical research and will contain a discussion of relevant econometric techniques used in public economics. The course aims to give students a broad overview of this growing field and to bring them to the research frontier.

The course covers material on taxation, public expenditures and social insurance. I will provide a more detailed course outline on the first day of class. Familiarity with Stata or another statistical software is required.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Problem Sets	20%
Mock Referee Report	15%
Paper Presentation	15%
Research proposal	20%
Final Exam	30%

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, and then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally 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

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

The final exam will be held during the examination period at a time and place to be determined by the Registrar. It will be 75 minutes long and will be held in a class room.

Notes:

1. Students must comply with the university regulations concerning "Intellectual Honesty", "Examinations", etc., which are published in the University Calendar.
2. Any work not submitted on time will receive a grade of zero. Extensions and exemptions for assignments will not normally be given except in the case of documented illness, family emergency, or religious observance.
3. Students seeking reappraisal of term work should discuss the issue with the instructor within fifteen days of the work being returned in class. Unclaimed work will be available from the instructor during office hours.
4. 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 403-220-8237. 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.
5. Campus Security/Safewalk 220-5333.

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>

Emergency Assembly Location – Professional Faculties Food Court

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SS/mi
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