

Economics 611.48 (Empirical Public Finance)

Instructor:	Stefan Staubli	Lecture Location:	SS 423
Phone:	(403) 220-6180	Lecture Days/Time:	T 18:00 – 20:45
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Office Hours:	T 16:00 – 17:00	Winter 2025	

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).

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 may be used to distribute course-related information. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

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	30%
Mock Referee Report	20%
Paper Presentation	15%
Research proposal	35%

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, 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 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

Notes:

- All students must comply with the regulations published in the University Calendar concerning “Intellectual Honesty,” “Examinations,” etc.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

- 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: 403 220 5333
Emergency Assembly Point: Professional Faculties - Food Court

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