

Economics 649 (L01) (Empirical Public Economics)

Instructor:	Stefan Staubli	Lecture Location:	SS 423
Phone:	(403) 220-6180	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 14:00 – 15.15
Email:	sstaubli@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	SS 408		
Office Hours:	By appointment	Winter 2019	

Course Description:

Economics 649 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 covers material on taxation, public expenditures, and social insurance. Familiarity with STATA or another statistical software is required.

Objective/Learning Outcomes:

The course aims to give students a broad overview of this growing field and to bring them to the research frontier. By the end of the course students should be able to understand and critically evaluate issues related to social and government policy from an economic perspective. Students will also learn and implement quasi-experimental econometric methods to estimate causal effects.

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Familiarity with STATA or another statistical software is required.

Course Outline:

The following topics will be covered in this course:

0. Introduction and Road Map
1. Introduction to Tax Analysis
2. Taxation, Transfers, and Labor Supply
3. Tax Rates and Taxable Income
4. Social Insurance: Adverse Selection
5. Social Insurance: Moral Hazard
6. Optimal Social Insurance: Unemployment Insurance
7. Tagging: Disability Insurance

8. Social Security

9. Externalities and Public Goods

Required 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>]

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> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

Grade Determination/Assessment:

3 Assignments	30%
1 Referee Report	10%
Paper Presentation	10%
Own Research Project	<u>50%</u>
	100%

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Department of Economics Criteria for Letter Grades. Economics professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.

Grading Scale

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.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar 0.1

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html>

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar 0.1. B

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html>

Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-r.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-r.html>

Academic Accommodations:

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/academic-schedule.html>

Student Organizations:

Faculty of Grad Studies website: <http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home>

Graduate Students Association: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

Professional Development for Grad Students

Workshops and resources can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/>

Economics Graduate Association: <http://econ.ucalgary.ca/ega/>

Evacuation Assembly Point:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The assembly point for this classroom is Professional Faculties - Food Court.

Safewalk:

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. **Call 403-220-5333.**

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device information:

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note-taking only.

SS

2018-11-13