

Department of Economics Course Outline

Term: Spring 2007

Course: Economics 355
[Canadian Public Finance]

Section: 20

Time: MW 18:00 ? 20:50

Place: SA 124A
(subject to change)

Instructor: Todd Hirsch

Office: TBA

Telephone: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

E-Mail: thirsch@ucalgary.ca

Required Textbook(s): John Strick, *The Public Sector in Canada: Programs, Finance and Policy*, Thompson Educational Publishing, 1999.

Book(s) on Reserve:

None

Course Outline:

This course provides a practical overview of the institutions and economic rationale for Canadian government policy relating to public expenditures and taxation. Notions of efficiency and equity are developed and used to discuss policies such as public health insurance, education, social welfare, and progressive income taxation. The course is designed to follow the chapters in the textbook, but the lectures are intended to complement this material, rather than repeating it. In addition, there are some other compulsory readings, which will serve as the basis for class discussion and assignments. Current events and news clippings on public policy will also be used to motivate class discussions.

Topics and Required Readings: