

Economics 403(01) Public Sector Economics: Taxation

Instructor: Kenneth J. McKenzie
Phone: (403) 220-4605
Email: kjmckenz@ucalgary.ca

Lecture Location: SA 131
Lecture Days/Time: MWF 12:00-12:50

Office: SA 450
Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00

Fall 2018

Course Description:

The course focuses on the taxation side of public finance. The course will emphasize the basic tools that economists employ to evaluate and determine the effects of taxes from an efficiency and equity perspective. Particular attention will be paid to the incentive effects of taxation on things like labour supply, saving, investment, etc. Each segment of the course will consist of the development of the economic theory required to understand the issue, followed by a summary of the relevant empirical evidence.

This course takes the prerequisites seriously. In particular, a solid understanding of intermediate microeconomic theory (Econ 357) is required. The use of calculus (derivates and integrals) will be employed as appropriate.

Objective/Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course you should be able to understand and critically evaluate issues related to tax policy at an advanced level from an economic perspective.

Course Outline:

A detailed list of topics and readings will be provided during the first week of classes. Topics covered will include:

Tax Incidence and Income Distribution
Efficiency
Optimal Taxation: Commodity Taxation, Income Taxation
Personal Taxation: Labour Supply, Savings
Business Taxation: Investment, Financing
Environmental Taxation

Prerequisites:

Economics 357 and 303.

Required Textbook(s):

H. Rosen, J.-F. Wen, T. Snoddon, Public Finance in Canada, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 5th Canadian Edition

There will be supplementary readings which will be provided in the first week of classes.

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. Course announcements will be made in the News section of D2L and students are responsible for checking for these announcements on a regular basis.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Assignments (2)	35%
Midterm (TBA)	25%
Final	40%

The assignments will involve problem solving, modelling and short essays.

Assignments, tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis. The final course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above, and converted to a letter grade using the following letter grade equivalences (the lower threshold for each letter grade category is required to achieve the associated letter grade, as such numerical grades will be truncated and will not be rounded up; i.e., a numerical grade of 79.9% will receive a letter grade of B+):

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.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during the instructor's office hours.

The final examination will be comprehensive, scheduled by the Registrar, held in a classroom, and last 2 hours. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstance will this accommodation be made by the Department.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions. Non-programmable calculators WILL be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

The exact date for the in-class midterm exam will be announced at least one week in advance.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED MIDTERM EXAM under any circumstances, nor may the exam be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have

the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned. Documentation may take the form of a Statutory Declaration (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty, see Calendar K.4

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, see Calendar K.5

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.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/current/academic-schedule.html>

Student Organizations:

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca and Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:

<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com.

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>.

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 Social Sciences-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.

KJM

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