Department of Economics
Course Outline

Term: Fall 2003

Course: Economics 405
Section: 01
[Political Economics of Public Policy]

Time: MWF 12:00-12:50
Place: SA 147 (subject to change)

Instructor: John R. Boyce

Office: SS 412
Telephone: 220-5860

Office Hours: F 13:00 - 15:00
E-Mail: boyce@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):


Book(s) on Reserve:


Other Reference Books:

- Torsten Persson & Guido Tabellini (2000), Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy, Cambridge,
Massachusetts: MIT Press. (a modern and advanced text)

**Course Outline:**

2. Public choice in a direct democracy.
3. Normative properties of majority rule.
4. Alternatives to majority rule.
5. Exit, voice, and disloyalty.
6. Two-party competition.
7. Multiparty systems.
8. Rent-Seeking.
9. Interest Groups.
10. Supply of government services.
11. The paradox of voting.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

Take-Home Assignments (11) 50% (5% each, drop the lowest)

Final Examination 50%

The homework assignments and final exam are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, which is converted to a letter grade. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining course standing, the following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>75-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>70-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>55-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>45-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the distribution of grades determined using the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, at the instructor's discretion, feels it is necessary.
to more fairly represent student achievement.

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

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 3 hours.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

Notes:

Students’ Union Vice President Academic:
  Phone: 220-3911
  E-mail: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Students’ Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)
  Carina. McDonald
  Phone: 220-3913 Office: MSC 251
  E-Mail: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.)
  E-mail: socuecon@ucalgary.ca

Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work must discuss their work with the Instructor within two weeks of the work being returned to the class.

  Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

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JRB/pmb
2003-07-16