

## Economics 405(L01) (Political Economy)

Instructor:	John R. Boyce	Lecture Location:	TRB 101
Phone:	n/a	Lecture Days/Time:	Tue./Thr. 12:30-13:45
Email:	boyce@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	Social Sciences Room 412		
Office Hours:	11:00-12:30 Tue./Thr.	(Winter 2018)	

### Course Description:

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of the literature on social and public choice. The social choice literature studies properties of voting rules, political competition, and social welfare functions. The public choice studies how interest groups, bureaucracy, the judiciary, and legislative and executive bodies of government interact and compete.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

To learn and master concepts in political economy.

### Course Outline:

- Origins of the State:
  - Efficiency reasons for collective choice
  - Redistribution reasons for collective choice
- Public Choice in a Direct Democracy:
  - Choice of a voting rule
  - Majority rule: positive properties
  - Majority rule: normative properties
  - Simple alternatives to majority rule
  - Complicated alternatives to majority rule
- Public Choice in Representative Democracy:
  - Federalism
  - Two-Party competition
  - Multi-Party systems
  - Paradox of Voting
  - Rent Seeking
  - Bureaucracy
  - Legislatures and bureaucracies
  - Dictatorship
- Applications:
  - Political competition and macroeconomic performance
  - Interest groups, lobbying, and contributions
  - Size of government
  - Government size and economic performance
- Normative Public Choice:

Social welfare functions  
 Arrow's impossibility theorem  
 Just social contracts  
 Constitution as a utilitarian contract  
 Liberal rights and social choices

**Prerequisites/corequisites:**

Econ 357 (pre-requisite)

**Required Textbook(s):**

Dennis C. Mueller, *Public Choice III*, Cambridge University Press, 2003

**Books on Reserve:**

None

**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 and Final Examination Details:**

Component	Percent of Grade	Date
Midterm Examination	35%	Thursday, February 15, in class
Final Examination (cumulative)	40%	Scheduled by Registrar
Assignment 1	5%	Due Friday, 26 January (3pm, SS454)
Assignment 2	5%	Due Friday, 9 February (3pm, SS454)
Assignment 3	5%	Due Friday, 8 March (3pm, SS454)
Assignment 4	5%	Due Friday, 26 March (3pm, SS454)
Assignment 5	5%	Due Friday, 5 April (3pm, SS454)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

*Grading Scale*

A+	100%	B	80 – 84	C-	60 – 64
A	95 – 99	B-	75 – 79	D+	55 – 59
A-	90 – 94	C+	70 – 74	D	50 – 54
B+	85 – 89	C	65 – 69	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 his 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstance will this be accommodated 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.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams 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.

**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 Accommodation:**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://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](http://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](mailto:econrep@fasaucalgary.ca) and Web: [www.fasaucalgary.ca](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Science - 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.

JRB

2017-08-22