



ECON 320 Section 01 Economics of Public Finance
Fall 2017

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Office: Clark C 311G
Office Hours: MWF 11:45 – 12:45 *and by appointment*
Class Meeting: MWF 1:00 – 1:50 in Eddy 5

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook (required):

Gruber, Jonathan. Public Finance and Public Policy, 5th edition. ISBN: 9781464143335
You can purchase this book at the CSU bookstore at www.bookstore.colostate.edu

Course Website:

This course will primarily use Canvas for all class related materials and announcements.
Login at <http://canvas.colostate.edu>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the role of the government through taxes, government expenditures on allocation of resources, and the distribution of income in addition to the immediate and lasting impact on market economies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Explain and apply the theoretical and empirical tools of Public Finance;
2. Analyze and describe the consequences and impacts on fairness of non-rivalry and non-excludability in the form of public goods and of positive and negative externalities;
3. Identify the various approaches of defining equity in the context of income distribution and describe the various programs in place in the US to address inequity in income distribution; and
4. Discuss the efficiency and equity implications for optimal taxation and apply these concepts to common US taxes.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

ECON 204 – Principles of Macroeconomics. This course will also require some mathematical tools such as solving systems of equations and graphing functions.



GRADING

Your grade in this course is determined by the completion of weekly quizzes, problem sets, exams, writing assignments, and a group presentation.

Assignment	Frequency/Points per Assignment	Points
Weekly Quizzes	15 @ 10 points each	= 150
Problem Sets	4 @ 25 points each	= 100
Exams	3 @ 100 points each	= 300
Writing Assignment	2 @ 75 points each	= 150
Group Presentation	1	= 50
Total		= 750

WEEKLY QUIZZES

There will fifteen (15) weekly quizzes (there will not be a quiz over Thanksgiving break). These quizzes are open note and open book. They are there to help measure your understanding of the prior week's content and serve as a study tool for the exams. The weekly quizzes are due every **Wednesday at 11:59pm**. Each quiz will be available on Canvas the Friday before the quiz is due, giving you five days to ask questions and complete the exam. **NO LATE QUIZZES WILL BE ACCEPTED**. If you are sick, and unable to complete the quiz, you must submit a doctor's note within one week of the original due date.

PROBLEM SETS

There will be four (4) graded problem sets in this course. The problem set will be due one week from the time it is released on Canvas. Each problem set will be worth 25 points, totaling 100 points for the semester. Students can work with each other but must turn in a separate assignment. **The use of online answer keys is prohibited and will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment**. Your assignment must be stapled and include your name at the risk of losing points. Once all assignments are turned in, an answer key will be posted on Canvas.

Important: Problem sets are due at the beginning of class. If you are unable to attend class on the day that a problem set is due, you must make arrangements to turn it in. Any assignments turned in late will receive a 5 point (20%) penalty for every 24 hours past the due date. This means turning in an assignment after class the day it is due will result in a 5 point penalty.

EXAMS

There will be a total of three (3) in class exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points, totaling in 300 exam points for the semester. Exams are not cumulative.

Important: If you are sick and unable to attend the exam, you must email me and bring me a doctor's note. With the exception of campus excused absences, no make-up exams will be given.



WRITING ASSIGNMENT

There will be two (2) writing assignments for the semester. They will each be worth 50 points, totaling 100 points for the semester. Information regarding the writing assignments will be released later in the semester both in Canvas and in class. The writing assignments must be submitted twice in Canvas, once in the assignment folder and once in VeriCite, by 11:59pm on the due date. **There will be a penalty for not submitting the assignment in VeriCite.** There will be a 20% penalty for every 24 hours the assignment is submitted late.

GROUP PRESENTATION

There will be one group presentation at the end of the semester worth 50 points. Details regarding the group presentation will be announced both in Canvas and in class later in the semester. A portion of your presentation grade will come from attending the presentations of your classmates.

GRADING SCALE

Final course grades will follow the traditional grading system. This course will not use the plus and minus system.

675 – 750 Points	A
600 – 674 Points	B
525 – 599 Points	C
450 – 524 Points	D
<i>449 Points or below will result in a failing grade for the course</i>	

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This includes, but is not limited to, attendance. Attendance is important to understand the course material needed to succeed on the weekly quizzes, problem sets, and exams. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out *from your classmates* what you missed. In addition to showing up to class, it is expected that you are engaged and participate in the lectures. This includes contributing relevant and insightful comments and asking questions. Although you will not receive points for your attendance, I will keep track of your attendance for the purpose of rounding grades at the end of the semester. For instance, if you end class with an 89.2% and participated the entire semester, I will round your grade up to an A. If you chose not to participate in class and end with an 89.2%, your grade will remain a B.

EXTRA CREDIT

With the exception of occasional extra credit questions on the exams, *there will not be extra credit* opportunities for the course. Be proactive, and turn in all assignments. Exams will not be curved so come to class on exam day prepared. Email me or come to my office hours if further clarification is needed on any of the material.



WEEKLY COURSE TIME ESTIMATES

Attend In-Class Lectures	3 hours
Reviewing Class Material	2 hours
Problem Sets	1 hour
Study for Exams	2 hours
Writing Assignment	0.5 hours
<u>Complete group presentation</u>	<u>0.5 hours</u>
Total	9 hours

DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON COPYRIGHT

Please do not share material from this course in online, print or other media. Course material is the property of the instructor who developed the course. Materials authored by third parties and used in the course are also subject to copyright protections. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face disciplinary or legal action.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

CSU HONOR PLEDGE

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in this course. *While you will not be required to affirm the honor pledge*, you are expected to affirm the following statement for each assignment:

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's [Practicing Academic Integrity](http://learning.colostate.edu/integrity/index.cfm) <http://learning.colostate.edu/integrity/index.cfm>.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Students requesting special accommodations should contact Resources for Disabled Students (RDS) at 970-491-6385 or go to <http://rds.colostate.edu>. Accommodations for exams will not be granted without pre-approval from RDS. If this applies to you, please make arrangements immediately and also notify me.

TITLE IX

CSU's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as "Responsible Employees." This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As "Responsible Employees," faculty may refer students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student and campus safety. Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources: Emergency Response 911, Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350, Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425. For counseling support and assistance, please see the CSU Health Network, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/>. The Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential student resource that does not have a reporting requirement: <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>



COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change. All changes will be posted in Canvas.

Week	Chapter Topic	Graded Assignment	Due Date
1 Week of Aug. 21	1 Why Study Public Finance?	QUIZ 1	Aug. 21
2 Week of Aug. 28	4 Budget Analysis & Deficit Financing	QUIZ 2	Aug. 30
3 Week of Sept. 4	5 Externalities: Problem and Solutions 6 Externalities in Action	QUIZ 3 PROBLEM SET 1	Sept. 6 Sept. 8
4 Week of Sept. 11	7 Public Goods 8 Cost Benefit Analysis	QUIZ 4	Sept. 13
5 Week of Sept. 18	Exam Review Exam 1 will cover chapters 1, 4 – 8	QUIZ 5 PROBLEM SET 2 EXAM 1	Sept. 20 Sept. 22 Sept. 22
6 Week of Sept. 25	11 Education	QUIZ 6	Sept. 27
7 Week of Oct. 2	12 Social Insurance	QUIZ 7 WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1	Oct. 4 Oct. 6
8 Week of Oct. 9	13 Social Security	QUIZ 8	Oct. 11
9 Week of Oct. 16	15 Health Insurance I 16 Health Insurance II	QUIZ 9 PROBLEM SET 3	Oct. 18 Oct. 20
10 Week of Oct. 23	Exam Review Exam 2 will cover ch. 11 – 13, 15 – 16	QUIZ 10 EXAM 2	Oct. 25 Oct. 27
11 Week of Oct. 30	17 Income Distribution & Welfare	QUIZ 11	Nov. 1
12 Week of Nov. 6	18 Taxation 19 Equity Implications of Taxation	QUIZ 12	Nov. 8
13 Week of Nov. 13	20 Tax Inefficiencies and Implications	QUIZ 13 PROBLEM SET 4	Nov. 15 Nov. 17
NOV 20-14: FALL BREAK! NOTHING DUE THIS WEEK			
14 Week of Nov. 27	Exam Review Exam 3 will cover chapters 17 – 20	QUIZ 14 EXAM 3	Nov. 29 Dec. 1
15 Week of Dec. 4	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2	Dec. 8
16 Week of Dec. 11	FINALS WEEK	QUIZ 15	Friday, Dec. 15 7:30am