

**UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY**  
**ECN 4400 - ECONOMICS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR (OL)**  
**Online syllabus**

**Instructor:** Joseph A. Weglarz - Lecturer  
**Class Hours:** online (new material opens every Monday at 6 p.m.)  
**Office Hours:** Macomb University Center, Room 220A: Tuesday (1-4 p.m.)  
or by appointment  
Briggs, Room 321: Monday, Wednesday, Friday (11 a.m. – noon)  
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Students are expected to:

- Understand the basic concepts of public finance
- Critically analyze articles and handouts about various contemporary issues in public policy
- Understand the fundamental formulas in public finance
- Understand cause-and-effect in the decision-making process in public finance
- Meet all of the course objectives listed below

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to:

- Define public finance and understand the complexity of the discipline
- Understand the basic concepts in public finance, including public goods and externalities, social insurance and income maintenance, taxation issues, revenue issues, and multi-government public finance
- Define and examine the tools of positive analysis
- Define and examine the tools of normative analysis
- Define and explain positive and negative externalities
- Understand the importance of the political economy on public finance issues
- Define, explain, and calculate cost-benefit analysis
- Understand the history and importance of the health care marketplace and Social Security
- Examine and analyze income distribution and expenditure programs for the poor
- Review the history of U.S. taxation on the local, state, and federal levels
- Define and review tax equitableness and efficiency
- Define and identify the various U.S. revenue systems
- Understand the basic structure of the personal income tax
- Examine taxation behavior and its effects on profits and productivity
- Explore the causes and effects of deficit financing
- Discuss the numerous alternatives and options to the existing U.S. tax structure

- Compare and contrast options on consumption and wealth taxes
- Understand public finance in a federal system

**Texts:** Rosen, Harvey S. and Gayer, Ted. *Public Finance*. Tenth Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Irwin, 2014 (PF)

Higgs, Robert. *Crisis and Leviathan*. Oakland, CA: The Independent Institute, 2012. (CL)

Simmons, Randy T. *Beyond Politics*. Oakland, CA: The Independent Institute, 2011. (BP)

Handouts designed to complement and enhance lecture and text material.

**Course Description:** An in-depth examination into the role of the public sector in a market-oriented economy. Public decision-making, budgeting, and setting of priorities are also examined. Additional economic topics include: cost benefit analysis, public expenditure analysis, and tax analysis. Public choice theory is applied throughout to determine market and government inefficiencies.

**Examinations:** There will be five quizzes and three exams.

Your grade will be based on: **500/5=Final Grade**

3 exams @ 100 pts.=300

5 quizzes @ 50 pts.= 200

\*Note: lowest grade score will be automatically dropped!

### Examinations and Quizzes

**Online:** Students are required to take all quizzes online. Failure to take all quizzes will result in an automatic ½ grade reduction.

Make-up quizzes and exams will only be given if the student can verify an emergency.

The Quiz / Exam schedule is as follows:

Week 4: Quiz I

Week 6: Exam I  
Week 8: Quiz II  
Week 10: Quiz III  
Week 12: Exam II  
Week 13: Quiz IV  
Week 14: Quiz V  
Week 16: Exam III

**Grading:** The University of Detroit Mercy grading scale is as follows:

A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	59-00

**Quizzes:**

Quizzes will cover assigned handouts, *Crisis and Leviathan* (CL) and *Beyond Politics* (BP). CL and BP will be covered in the following order: Quiz I: CL-Chapters 1-2, BP-Chapters 1-2; Quiz II: CL-Chapters 3-4, BP-Chapters 3-4; Quiz III: CL-Chapters 5-7, BP-Chapters 5-8; Quiz IV: CL-Chapters 8-9, BP-Chapters 9-12; Quiz V: CL-Chapters 10-11, BP-Chapters 13-16.

**Examinations:** Examinations will cover lecture materials and other texts.

Exam I will cover:

1. Powerpoint Lectures
2. *Public Finance* (PF)-Chapters I-VI

Exam II will cover:

1. Powerpoint Lectures
2. *Public Finance* (PF)-Chapters VIII-XIII

Exam III will cover:

1. Powerpoint Lectures
2. *Public Finance* (PF)-Chapters XIV-XVII, XIX, XXI-XXII

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>LECTURE TOPICS</u></b>
08/31	Introduction/Overview
09/08	Tools of Positive and Normative Analysis
09/14	Public Choice and the Growth of Government
09/21	Public Goods and Externalities
	<b>Quiz I</b>
09/28	Theory of Political Economy Cost-Benefit Analysis and Efficiency Review for Exam I
10/05	<b>EXAMINATION I</b>
10/14	Health Care Market and the Government
10/19	Social Security and Alternatives
	<b>Quiz II</b>
10/26	Income Distribution and Expenditure Programs for the Poor
11/02	Income Distribution and Taxation
	<b>Quiz III</b>
11/09	Taxation and Efficiency Review for Exam II
11/16	<b>EXAMINATION II</b>
11/23	Income and Corporate Tax Issues Effects and Consequences of Deficit Financing
	<b>Quiz IV</b>
11/30	Tax Reform I
	<b>Quiz V</b>
12/07	Tax Reform II Fiscal Federalism: History, Development, and Prospects Review for Exam III
12/15	<b>EXAMINATION III</b>

### **Compliance with UDM Student-Related Policies**

Students of the University of Detroit Mercy are expected to comply with all policies and practices established by the College and/or University. Listed below are a few specific UDM policies. The list, however, is not intended to be exhaustive. A complete listing of all UDM policies can be found in the UDM Student Handbook and students are expected to be familiar with all UDM Student-related policies.

## **Student Course Evaluations**

Student course evaluations are an important source of information for curricular and teaching improvement in the College of Liberal Arts and Education. As such, all students enrolled in CLAE courses are strongly encouraged to complete an online course evaluation. Course evaluations are completed during the week preceding final exams each semester. Information is provided to students through e-mail explaining how to complete the evaluation online.

## **Statement Regarding Professional Conduct**

Student communications to and with the professor/instructor shall at all times be conducted in a professional and courteous manner. In addition, any important messages during the semester (such as a cancellation of a class session) will be communicated through Blackboard or UDM e-mail addresses.

## **Available Support Services**

The University of Detroit Mercy has a wide array of support services available to all students that include the library, media center, tutoring (UAS, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of Library) and Writing Center (Briggs 135). The UDM Student Handbook contains complete information regarding location and hours of operation of the University's support services. Students are encouraged to utilize the support services provided by the University, as needed.

## **UDM Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

As members of an academic community engaged in the pursuit of truth and with a special concern for values, students are expected to conform to a high standard of honesty and integrity in their academic work. The fundamental assumption under which the University operates is that work by a student is a product of his/her own efforts.

Among the most serious academic offenses is plagiarism, submitting the style of another author or source without acknowledgment or formal documentation. Plagiarism occurs when specific phrases or entire passages, whether a sentence, paragraph or longer excerpt, are incorporated into one's own writing without quotation marks or documentation. One also plagiarizes by paraphrasing the work of another, that is, retaining another writer's ideas and structure without documentation.

Students are advised always to set off another writer's exact words by quotation marks, with appropriate references. Students avoid plagiarism by concentrating on their own words and ideas and by fully crediting others' words and ideas when they find their way into the writing. Whenever in doubt, cite the source.

Students that purchase essays from other students or agencies or who copy from one another or from prohibited sources, commit the most serious type of academic dishonesty. The

consequences of plagiarism, or any act of academic dishonesty, may range from failure on an assignment or in a course to dismissal from the University.

### **Disability Support Services and Accommodations**

It is very important for students to be proactive with regard to requesting disability accommodations. While it is never required that you disclose your disability to your professors, all students at UDM are encouraged to talk to their professors to discuss their concerns. Faculty cannot provide disability accommodations without official notification from the Disability Support Services office. If you need an accommodation because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please contact Emilie Wetherington as soon as possible to schedule an appointment ([gallegem@udmercy.edu](mailto:gallegem@udmercy.edu)) or (313) 578-0310). Disability Support Services is located in the Student Success Center, Room 319, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Library, McNichols Campus.