

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Public Finance: Expenditure

Course Number and Section

ECONOMICS

3328A - 550

Instructor Name(s): Ian Herzog

Instructor Email(s): iherzog2@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course studies the role of government in the provision of goods and services from theoretical and empirical perspectives. We do not directly address topics in public accounting or budgeting and instead focus on identifying markets that warrant government intervention and evaluating public policy. This includes positive and normative analysis of government programs, public goods, externalities, and economic models of government decision making.

Learning Outcomes:

- Deepen our understanding of theoretical welfare economics and approaches to determining when, why, and how government should intervene in markets.
- Learn to evaluate both the stated goals and effectiveness of public policy from an economic perspective.
- Identify market failures, propose ideal policy responses, and understand their limitations.
- Use political economy concepts to understand issues in group decision making and implications of existing institutional structures.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Main Text:

Rosen, Harvey, Lindsay Tedds, Trevor Tombe, Jean-Francois Wen, and Tracy Snoddon. Public Finance in Canada, 6th Canadian Edition, 2023, McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Additional Texts:

Gruber, Jonathan. Public Finance and Public Policy.

- 6th edition is most recent, any edition will suffice.

Jonathan Gruber's MIT OpenCourseWare materials are also a good resource and available at:

<https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/14-41-public-finance-and-public-policy-fall-2010/>

The following books contain additional examples and exercises you may find useful when working on problem sets and preparing for exams:

- Hindriks, Jean and Gareth D. Myles. Intermediate Public Economics, 2nd Edition, MIT Press. (Library e-book access link:

<https://ocul->

[uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/1brq4iv/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780262303293](https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/1brq4iv/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780262303293)

)
• Feldman, Allan M. and Roberto Serrano. Welfare Economics and Social Choice Theory, 2nd Edition, 2006, Springer. (Library e-book access link:
https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/1hdoga6/alma991044359478805163
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Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Discussion participation and reflections		6
Problem Set 1	10/04/23	5
Problem Set 2	10/25/23	5
Problem Set 3	11/29/23	5
Midterm Exam	11/08/23	22
Term paper: preliminary report	10/18/23	2
Term paper: final submission	12/06/23	25
Final Exam		30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.