

University of Missouri
Economics 4315: Public Economics
Fall Semester 2022

Meeting Time: M/W/F 8:00am - 8:50am (Section 1)

Meeting Place: Switzler Hall 201

Course Instructor: Tabitha Juneau

Office: 110E Locust Street Building

Hours: M/W/F 1:00pm - 2:00pm in-person & by appointment

Email: tmjuneau@mail.missouri.edu

Course Overview:

This course applies basic and microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts to examine the role of government in the economy. The focus is on the U.S. institutions and experience, but the theoretical concepts apply more broadly. Topics covered include externalities and public goods, tax incidence and the structure of the U.S. tax system, the Federal budget process and government deficits, economic analysis of spending and entitlement programs, and political economics.

Prerequisite:

ECON 4351 Intermediate Microeconomics; ECON 3251 Managerial Economics; or equivalent.

Required Text:

Public Finance and Public Policy (7th Edition). Gruber.

All students should be auto-enrolled with access to the required text; our class will not make use of supplemental materials from the publisher.

Course Website:

Course materials including handouts, supplemental readings, homework, and practice exams will be posted on Canvas.

Grading:

Course grades are based on three in-class exams, 12 weekly summaries, and in-class participation plus any extra credit for the book report, newspaper articles, and/or Freakonomics podcast. Exams will carry a total weight of 50%, weekly summaries will carry a total weight of 40%, and in-class participation will carry a total weight of 10%. Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ = 97.0% - 100.99%	B+ = 87.0% - 89.99%	C+ = 77.0% - 79.99%	D+ = 67.0% - 69.99%
A = 93.0% - 96.99%	B = 83.0% - 86.99%	C = 73.0% - 76.99%	D = 63.0% - 66.99%
A- = 90.0% - 92.99%	B- = 80.0% - 82.99%	C- = 70% - 72.99%	D- = 60.0% - 62.99%
			F = 59.99% and lower

Exams:

Exams are closed book and usually include four or five sections in order of ascending difficulty: definitions/true-false, multiple choice, and short answers. Students may bring a one-page (double-sided) and handwritten “cheat sheet” to use as a reference during the exam. Students may be required to show a **current student ID with a photo** at each exam. Your *lowest* exam grade will be **dropped**.

Students unable to sit for an in-person exam due to an unforeseen emergency or medical condition must notify the instructor as soon as practical. An alternative closed book exam will be administered within one week of the exam date.

(Optional) Homework:

Homework will be assigned in most weeks through Canvas. Homework is intended to be **open-book/open-note** and you are encouraged to **work with other students**. Homework will not be collected nor graded, but it is a **crucial exercise for success in this course**.

Summaries:

The instructor will post several articles pertaining the relevant course material on Canvas in most weeks. Students are expected to select *one* of the articles to read and write a summary to be submitted via Canvas. Summaries should be one page, double-spaced in 12 point font and should describe the selected article. Late or emailed assignments will *not* be accepted. Your *two lowest* summaries will be **dropped**.

In-class Participation:

Students are expected to attend and engage in *all* lectures. Questions will be asked periodically during lecture using iClicker. Students will be graded on their effort to participate in answering these questions, not their accuracy of answering the questions. In the event of an *excused* absence, any participation points missed for that day may be excused upon the student contacting the instructor with proper documentation. An excused absence consists of university sponsored activities, family emergencies, documented illnesses, etc.

Extra Credit Book Report:

The book report is an optional assignment worth up to 1% of extra credit toward the final course grade. For credit, an electronic copy of the book report must be turned in through Canvas by 11:59pm on Reading Day; *no late or emailed papers will be accepted*.

A book report is a well-written 4-5 page commentary that applies knowledge the course material with your selected book. Students are expected to select their own book which is relevant to the course material. Students are suggested to discuss their selection with the instructor to ensure they are picking an appropriate book. Papers may be informal in tone and may include some normative analysis; however, the goal of a book report is to demonstrate value-added from class via positive analysis.

Book reports should be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point font with one-inch margins all around. Scores are assigned as follows: 1) 10 points for the quality of the writing; 2) 10 points for the quality of the analysis, and 3) 5 points for spelling and grammar.

Extra Credit Freakonomics Podcast:

The [Freakonomics Podcast](#) is an optional assignment worth up to 1% of extra credit toward the final course grade. For credit, an electronic copy of the short essay must be turned in through Canvas; *no late or emailed papers will be accepted*.

A [Freakonomics Podcast](#) is a **current** podcast, within the time frame of the current semester, that relates to the material we have covered in class. A 3-4 page commentary that applies the podcast to your knowledge of public economic concepts should accompany the selected podcast.

Short essays should be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point font with one-inch margins all around. Scores are assigned as follows: 1) 10 points for the quality of writing; 2) 10 points for the quality of analysis; 3) 5 points for spelling and grammar.

Extra Credit Newspaper Articles:

Newspaper articles are an optional assignment worth up to a total of 1% of extra credit toward the final course grade. For each chapter, you may submit one news article and one accompanying short essay. For credit, an electronic copy of the article and an accompanying short essay may be turned in through Canvas by 11:59pm on Reading Day; *no late or emailed papers will be accepted*. In order to receive the full 1%, students must complete the assignment for **all** chapters and must receive full credit on each chapter's submission.

A newspaper article is a **current** event, within the time frame of the current semester, that relates to the material we covered in the relevant chapter. A 1 page essay which includes a summary of the article and an explanation of how the article uses a concept discussed in the relevant chapter should accompany the selected news article.

Short essays should be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point font with one-inch margins all around. Scores are assigned as follows: 1) 4 points for a relevant current events article; 2) 6 points for accompanying essay that satisfies all formatting and content requirements.

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to attend **all** lectures, this course makes use of extensive diagrams and equations key concepts are developed **over the course of several lectures**. Students are responsible for all course material including, but not limited to, lectures, assignments, additional readings, etc. In the event of an unavoidable absence, students should obtain lecture notes from classmates. Students are encouraged to skim over the associated reading **prior** to class; however, a more thorough reading of the same material should be done after the class meeting.

As a courtesy to other students, please **refrain from creating a disruptive environment (negative externality)**. For example, mute all electronic devices; limit side conversations; eschew complicated snacks; and avoid entering or exiting during class time, except as required by the norms of polite society.

This class emphasizes logical thinking and concise articulation of complex ideas. To develop these skills, students will be asked questions in class *and their answers will be challenged or corrected*. Assignment answers will be held to a similarly high standard.

It is each student's responsibility to identify and correct weakness in their understanding of course material. It is strongly recommended that you **meet with other students** to compare notes and try to resolve any questions. Even if you are confident that you have a good grasp of the course material, it is beneficial to meet with a study group; you will develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter if you can successfully explain concepts to other students.

Students are expected to **take initiative to ask questions** in class and/or bring questions to the instructor outside of class. Questions from students are welcome before, during, and after class.

Students are *encouraged* to attend office hours or make an appointment for extra time. You may set up an appointment by email; **simply request a specific day and time** and your request will be answered as soon as possible. To help facilitate our email correspondence, please include your name, what class you are in, and your section.

Economics 4315 - Fall 2022 Class Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments
Week 1 8/22 - 8/28	The Role of Government in the Economy: Theory and Practice	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Week 2 8/29 - 9/4	The Government Budget	Chapter 4 Chapter 18 <i>Summary 1</i>
Week 3 9/5 - 9/11	Externalities: Legal, Regulatory, and Tax Approaches	Chapter 5 Chapter 6 <i>Summary 2</i>
Week 4 9/12 - 9/18	Public Goods and Publicly Provided Goods	Chapter 7 Chapter 8 <i>Summary 3</i>
Week 5 9/19 - 9/25	Federalism and Education	Chapter 10 Chapter 11 <i>Summary 4</i>
Week 6 9/26 - 10/2	Political Economics	Chapter 9 <i>Summary 5</i>
Week 7 10/3 - 10/9	<i>REVIEW on Wednesday 10/5 FIRST EXAM on Friday 10/7</i>	
Week 8 10/10 - 10/16	Tax Incidence	Chapter 18 Chapter 19 Chapter 20 <i>Summary 6</i>
Week 9 10/17 - 10/23	Taxes on Labor and Savings	Chapter 21 Chapter 22 <i>Summary 7</i>
Week 10 10/24 - 10/30	Taxes, Tax Reform and Growth	Chapter 23 Chapter 24 Chapter 25 <i>Summary 8</i>
Week 11 10/31 - 11/6	Insurance and Social Insurance	Chapter 12 <i>Summary 9</i>
Week 12 11/7 - 11/13	Medicaid and Medicare	Chapter 15 Chapter 16 <i>Summary 10</i>
Week 13 11/14 - 11/20	Social Security	Chapter 13 <i>Summary 11</i>
Week 14 11/21 - 11/27	<i>THANKSGIVING BREAK</i>	
Week 15 11/28 - 12/4	Unemployment, Disability, and Welfare	Chapter 3 Chapter 14 Chapter 17 <i>Summary 12</i>
Week 16 12/5 - 12/11	<i>REVIEW on Monday 12/5 SECOND EXAM on Wednesday 12/7</i>	<i>Extra Credit Assignments Due Friday 12/9</i>
Week 17 12/12 - 12/18	<i>FINAL EXAM on Wednesday 12/14 7:30 am - 9:30 am</i>	

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor or the [Office of Academic Integrity](#).

Students are expected to adhere to this honor pledge on all graded work whether or not they are explicitly asked in advance to do so: "I strive to uphold the University values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence. On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work."

Accommodation of Disabilities:

The goal of the University of Missouri is to ensure an inclusive learning environment for all students. [The University of Missouri Disability Center](#) provides services and accommodations for students to participate fully in the learning experience and to experience equitable evaluation of their performance. Students (including online students) with a documented disability can contact the Disability Center to establish an [Accommodation Plan](#). Documented disabilities include hearing, vision, mobility, learning and attention, psychological health, and physical health. Students' accommodations are implemented with the input of students to maximize the learning experience. The MU Disability Center keeps information about a student's disability confidential.

Please notify me of your eligibility for accommodations as soon as possible. Additionally, if there are aspects of the course that present as barriers, such as inaccessible course content (e.g., learning assessments, Powerpoints, non-captioned videos, images, tables, PDFs) or if you need an immediate accommodation due to an injury, please contact me or the Disability Center as soon as possible.

Intellectual Pluralism:

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director, the [Office of Academic Integrity](#), or the [MU Equity Office](#).

Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion, and Privacy:

When students record something that happens in a course (a lecture, class discussions, meetings, etc.) it has an impact on the rights of the people captured in that recording. For example, the instructor and the University may have rights to the intellectual property contained in that recording. At the same time, another student who may have been recorded has the right to privacy. In order to protect these rights, MU employs a policy (called "[Executive Order No. 38](#)") to govern both situations you may encounter while taking a course - when an instructor allows recordings and when they do not.

- In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded.

Students who violate this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section [200.020](#) of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

FERPA:

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) of 1974 is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records; to establish the rights of students to inspect and review their education records; and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings. The law applies to any individual who is or has been in attendance at an institution and regarding whom the institution maintains educational records. Once students have matriculated to the University of Missouri, i.e. enrolled in course work, FERPA rights transfer to the student, regardless of the student's age.

Students can enable certain individuals to have access to their education records by signing a [FERPA waiver](#). The consent must specify records to be disclosed, state the purpose of the disclosure and identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure must be made.

Nondiscrimination Policy:

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex*(including gender), pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, protected veteran status, and any other status protected by applicable state or federal law. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. *Sex discrimination includes rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation. Retaliation for making or supporting a report of discrimination or harassment is also prohibited.

If you experience discrimination or sexual violence, you are encouraged (but not required) to report the incident to the MU Office for Civil Rights & Title IX. Learn more about your rights and options at civilrights.missouri.edu or call 573-882-3880. You also may make an anonymous report online.

If you are a survivor, or someone concerned about a survivor, and need immediate information on what to do, see RSVP Resources page. Both the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX and the RSVP Center can provide assistance to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues.

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced any of these forms of prohibited discrimination or harassment, Mizzou policies require that, as your instructor, I share this information with the MU Office for Civil Rights & Title IX. They will contact you to offer information about resources, as well as your rights and options as a member of our campus community.

Mental Health:

The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care, and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00 - 5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601.

Visit our website at <https://wellbeing.missouri.edu> to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend. Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no cost to you.

Last Date of Attendance and Impact on Financial Aid:

Federal regulations for financial aid require the student financial aid office to document the attendance of students who have received federal financial aid if they do not successfully complete any courses during the term. As a result, the last day of attendance (or activity) for any student receiving an F, U, or FN in this course will be recorded in the grade roster and reported to the financial aid office. **Based on the last day of attendance, students may be required to repay a portion of their financial aid award for the semester.**

A student's last day of attendance (or activity) is the last day on which a student participates in an academically-related activity at the University. These include:

- Attendance in class, lab, or an instructor's office hours
- The completion of an assignment or examination
- An appointment with a professor or e-mail correspondence regarding course material
- (Online courses only) For online courses, the last day a student submits an assignment or exam. Only logging into an online class without participating is *not* acceptable for last day of attendance

Please note that discussing a course withdrawal or notifying the instructor of an absence in class does not constitute participation for financial aid purposes. Moreover, any office hour visits or email correspondence must be related to the course material.

Netiquette:

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be requested in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambiance.

Religious Holidays & Accommodations:

Many religious faiths are represented in the student body. The University of Missouri does not restrict student free exercise of religion, unless 1) the restriction is in the form of a rule of general applicability, and does not discriminate against religion or among religions; and 2) it can be demonstrated that the application of the restriction is essential to furthering a compelling university interest, and is not unduly restrictive considering the relevant circumstance. The policy of the University attempts to strike a reasonable balance between accommodating the religious practice of students and meeting needs and standards.

Consult IDE's [Guide to Religions](#) for the form that can be used to notify an instructor of an absence associated with religious practice. Students are expected to notify their instructor(s) by completing and submitting this form in a manner that is consistent with the procedure outlined in the university's policy on student religious accommodation. Providing false information regarding sincerely held religious practice is a violation of the university's Standard of Conduct and will not be tolerated.