



Course Syllabus: Public Finance
Dillard College of Business Administration
ECON 3743 Section X10
Fall 2023

Contact Information

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Office: Dillard Building 215
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or by appointment. (You are also welcome to stop by at any time.)
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Course Description

This course provides a broad introduction to public sector economics and helps students understand fundamental role that government can and does have on the free-market system.

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Apply economic methodology to the government arena.
- Understand types and reasons for government interference.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Stiglitz, Joseph and Rosengard, Jay, 2015. Economics of the Public Sector, 4th ed. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, and London (Not Required).

Copyright

The class materials associated with this course are provided to facilitate student learning and are protected by the United States copyright laws. Dissemination or sale of the class material (including the World Wide Web) is not permitted. The class material is only available to students enrolled in the course that requires the use of the corresponding textbook. Students should abide by these restrictions. The publisher of the textbook owns the copyright for the class materials associated with this course.

Correspondence

As this is an online course, all important announcements will be posted on D2L. It is the students' responsibility to check D2L regularly and retrieve the provided information accordingly.

All correspondence regarding class issues must be conducted in person or by email using your Midwestern State University (MSU) email only. I will not discuss grades or class

standing over the phone. Since email is often the most convenient means of communication, it is recommended that students use and regularly monitor their MSU email account.

I suggest that you link your D2L email with your MSU email, so the messages sent through D2L will be forwarded to your MSU email. To do this,

- Log in to D2L.
- Click on your name on the right upper corner of the screen.
- Click on “account settings”.
- Click on “email”.
- Check “Forwarding incoming messages to an alternate email account” and enter your email in the box.
- Click on “save and close”.

Students are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, class discussions, assignment submissions, etc. If I consider any of them to be inappropriate or offensive, I will forward the message to the Chair of the department and the online administrators and appropriate actions will be taken.

Attendance

Attendance will be checked each week based on assignment submissions and students' access to the course on D2L. Students are expected to submit all assignments by utilizing the lecture videos and slides. If students do not have any login records of watching videos and using lecture resources, the instructor will raise a flag to encourage active class performance and involvement.

Homework

Homework assignments will be given after the completion of each weekly lecture or advised accordingly. **No late submission is accepted.**

Through the 'Assessments - Assignments' tab, students can download the assignment files by clicking 'download all files' under the attachment tab. After checking the questions from the pdf file, **please type the answers in the provided answer sheet and upload it in the same word format before the due date.** If students do not follow this instruction, the assignment will not be graded. **Plagiarism detection will be also conducted for writing-related assessments.** The purpose of assignments is to evaluate the student learning outcomes by checking if the resources provided from this course are actively utilized.

Exams

The exams will be either open-book exams or essay/report submission. There are no make-up exams in this course and students missing an exam without a valid excuse will receive an exam grade of zero for the specific exam. **No make-up exams are given for the unexcused missed exams.**

Through the 'Assessments - Assignments' tab, students can download the exam files by clicking 'download all files' under the attachment tab. After checking the questions from the pdf file, **please type the answers in the provided answer sheet and upload it in the same word format before the due date.** If students do not follow this instruction, the exam will not be graded. **Plagiarism detection will be also conducted for writing-related assessments.**

Mid-Term Exam

There are two open-book mid-term exams. The exams can be either essay writing or test based on multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, draw a graph, or solving problems. Precise guidance will be instructed during the semester. The exam dates are noted in the Tentative Course Schedule in this syllabus. However, the instructor can change the exam dates if necessary. Any changes to those dates will be announced in advance and posted prominently on D2L.

Final Exam

Final exam is a comprehensive open-book exam, which can be either essay writing or test based on multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, draw a graph, or solving problems.

Late Work

Late submission of work is not allowed.

Make Up Work/Tests

If students miss an exam or assignment without prior approval from the instructor, a make-up exam or assignment is not allowed.

Grading

Course Grade

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
9 Homework Assignments (60 pts each)	540
2 Midterm Exams (150 pts each)	300
Final Exam	160
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	Higher than 900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Important Dates

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 (8/28 to 9/1)	PART 1. Role and Size of the Public Sector (HW1 Assignment)	
Week 2 (9/4 to 8)	PART 2.1. Market Efficiency and Market Failure (HW2 Assignment)	HW1 Due by 9/4 11:59 pm
Week 3 (9/11 to 15)	PART 2.2. Public Goods (HW3 Assignment)	HW2 Due by 9/11 11:59 pm
Week 4 (9/18 to 22)	PART 2.3. Externalities and the Environment (HW4 Assignment)	HW3 Due by 9/18 11:59 pm
Week 5 (9/25 to 29)	Exam1	HW4 Due by 9/25 11:59 pm
Week 6 (10/2 to 6)	Exam1 Review	Exam1 Due by 10/2 11:59 pm
Week 7 (10/9 to 13)	PART 3. Public Expenditure Theory (HW5 Assignment)	
Week 8 (10/16 to 20)	PART 4. Public Expenditure in Practice (HW6 Assignment)	HW5 Due by 10/16 11:59 pm
Week 9 (10/23 to 27)	PART 5. Taxation in Theory (HW7 Assignment)	HW6 Due by 10/23 11:59 pm
Week 10 (10/30 to 11/3)	PART 6. Taxation in Practice (HW8 Assignment)	HW7 Due by 10/30 11:59 pm
Week 11 (11/6 to 10)	PART 7. Further Issues (HW9 Assignment)	HW8 Due by 11/6 11:59 pm
Week 12 (11/13 to 17)	Exam2	HW9 Due by 11/13 11:59 pm
Week 13 (11/20 to 24)	Thanksgiving Break	Exam2 Due by 11/20 11:59 pm
Week 14 (11/27 to 12/1)	Mid-term Exam2 Review Final Prep	
Week 15 (12/4 to 8)	Final Exam	
Week 16 (12/11)		Final Due by 12/11 11:59 pm

This schedule is subject to change if necessary.