



Course Syllabus: Public Finance
Dillard College of Business Administration
ECON 3743 Section X10
Fall 2026

Contact Information

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Course Description

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

A. General Learning Goals:

1. Critical Thinking and problem solving through critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business information. The students will demonstrate their abilities in critical thinking and problem solving and decision-making abilities by applying economic concepts to the problems in homework, quizzes, and examinations.

2. Empirical and Quantitative Skills. The students will demonstrate their competency in analyzing and interpreting economic data to make informed decisions on economic issues.

3. Communication skills. The students will demonstrate their abilities in effectively communicating their analyses of issues that are related to the applications of microeconomics theory.

4. Social Responsibilities. The students will demonstrate their abilities in intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and in engaging effectively in regional, national, and global economic issues.

5. Personal Responsibilities. The students will demonstrate their abilities in connecting choices, actions, and consequences to economic reasoning and ethical decision-making.

B. Course Specific Learning Goals:

- Learn the role and size of the public sector.
- Analyze market efficiency, market failure, and the role of government.
- Apply public expenditure theory in practice.
- Apply taxation theory in practice.
- Examine the various taxing programs, the economic effects of governmental debt, and the significance of governmental expenditures for national defense, public works, social security benefits, resource development, and education.

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

Correspondence

As this is an online course, all important announcements will be posted in 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. 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.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
9 Homework Assignments (60 points each)	540
2 Midterm Exams (150 points 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

Homework

Homework assignments will be given with each weekly lecture or advised accordingly. All questions are solvable based on the lectures and supplemental materials. Students are required to submit the assignments before the due date.

No late submission is accepted.

Through the 'Assessments - Tests' tab, students can access the homework assignment and submit it before the due date. There is no time limit for solving the homework questions before the deadline. However, only one attempt is allowed to submit the completed homework. The homework will be graded, and the results will be shown after the due date. The grade will then be automatically synchronized with Gradebook. ***Plagiarism detection will be also conducted for writing-related assessments.***

Exams

The exams must be taken as scheduled. **All exams are online and will be monitored through RESPONDUS LOCKDOWN BROWSER, which will**

require students to have access to a video webcam. Every student is expected to have access to a webcam from the beginning of the semester. However, these monitoring tools are not compatible with Chromebook Laptop, Phones and Tablets. Contact [MSU Distance Education](#) to get proper instructions to execute this.

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. A valid excuse is defined as an authorized absence (see Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog for the definition) or such event deemed acceptable by the instructor. ***No make-up exams are given for the unexcused missed exams.***

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.

Mid-Term Exam

There are two mid-term exams. On the exam day, the students will have access to complete the exam in D2L from 10:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. The students have 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete the exam at one sitting within this certain time limit.

The exams may include a short writing, multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, graph analysis, or solving problems. Precise guidance will be instructed during the semester.

Final Exam

Final exam is a comprehensive exam, which includes a short writing, multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, graph analysis, or solving problems. The students have 2 hours to complete the exam at one sitting within this certain time limit.

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.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- 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.

Attendance

Attendance will be checked each week based on assignment submissions and students' access to the course in 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. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered as a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

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) exists 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 Student Wellness Center, (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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU 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 8/24 to 8/28	PART 1. Role and Size of the Public Sector HW1 Assigned	N/A
Week 2 8/31 to 9/4	PART 2.1. Market Efficiency and Market Failure HW2 Assigned	HW1 Due by 8/31 11:59 p.m.
Week 3 9/7 to 9/11	PART 2.2. Public Goods HW3 Assigned	HW2 Due by 9/7 11:59 p.m.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 4 9/14 to 9/18	PART 2.3. Externalities and the Environment HW4 Assigned	HW3 Due by 9/14 11:59 p.m.
Week 5 9/21 to 9/25	Exam1 Prep	HW4 Due by 9/21 11:59 p.m.
Week 6 9/28 to 10/2	Exam1	Monday, September 28 10:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (1 hour and 20 minutes)
Week 7 10/5 to 10/9	Exam1 Review	N/A
Week 8 10/12 to 10/16	PART 3. Public Expenditure Theory HW5 Assigned	N/A
Week 9 10/19 to 10/23	PART 4. Public Expenditure in Practice HW6 Assigned	HW5 Due by 10/19 11:59 p.m.
Week 10 10/26 to 10/30	PART 5. Taxation in Theory HW7 Assigned	HW6 Due by 10/26 11:59 p.m.
Week 11 11/2 to 11/6	PART 6. Taxation in Practice HW8 Assigned	HW7 Due by 11/2 11:59 p.m.
Week 12 11/9 to 11/13	PART 7. Further Issues HW9 Assigned	HW8 Due by 11/9 11:59 p.m.
Week 13 11/16 to 11/20	Exam2 Prep	HW9 Due by 11/16 11:59 p.m.
Week 14 11/23 to 11/27	Exam2	Monday, November 23 10:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (1 hour and 20 minutes)
Week 15 11/30 to 12/4	Exam2 Review Final Prep	N/A
Week 16 12/7 to 12/11	Final Exam	Monday, December 7 10:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (2 hours)