



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

JOHN GLENN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Public Sector Economics (Hybrid Delivery)

PUB AFRS 6030

Credit Hours: 4

Summer 2018

Tuesdays 5:30 – 7:20 PM

Page Hall 060

Professor: Kim Young, PhD

young.1807@osu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 5:00-6:00 pm and Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 pm, & by appointment

Office: Page Hall 310B

Assistant: Katie Kieninger

Office Hours: Thursdays 5:00 - 6:30 pm, Page Hall Room 040; & by appointment

Weekly Review Sessions: Thursdays 6:30 - 7:45 pm, Page Hall Room 040

REQUIRED BOOKS

Robert Pindyck & Daniel Rubinfeld, *Microeconomics*, 9th Edition, Prentice Hall. (ISBN 978-0134184241)

NOTE: A previous edition of Pindyck & Rubinfeld may be used but students are solely responsible for reconciling differences in chapter content and end-of-chapter problem set assignments between the 9th edition and an earlier edition.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

Pindyck and Rubinfeld, *Microeconomics Study Guide* (ISBN 9780132870498)

Tony Cleaver, *Economics: The Basics*, 3rd Edition, Taylor. (ISBN 9781138023543)

Students can access textbook information via the Barnes & Noble bookstore website: www.shopOhioState.com as well as from their BuckeyeLink Student Center. This information is disseminated by B&N to all area bookstores. You may buy from a store of your choice and/or shop for books (always use ISBN# for searches) on line.

OPTIONAL RESOURCES

- Students are encouraged to follow local and national newspapers such as the *The Columbus Dispatch*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* or *The Wall Street Journal*.
- Pearson's [MyEconLab](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This intermediate-level class focuses on microeconomic topics that are relevant to public policy analysis. Microeconomics is the study of how individuals and firms make decisions and how these decisions lead to markets. We will examine how markets allocate scarce resources and how government policy affects efficiency and equity. We will study some basic ways in which aggregate measures of the economy and economic policy are related. **It is assumed that students already have a basic level understanding of microeconomics**, such as a previous undergraduate introductory class.

PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Economics Stream

Econ 1 - Evaluate the quality and validity of economic information

Econ 2 - Apply and communicate private and public sector methods of addressing violations of the neoclassical model

Econ 3 - Analyze and evaluate alternative methods of revenue generation and allocation

Econ 4 - Know and apply basic budgeting tools

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students will have gained a basic understanding of some core microeconomic concepts and methods of analysis as well as some basic macroeconomics. Students will

- Understand and be conversant in key concepts such as efficiency, opportunity costs, comparative advantage, preferences, elasticity, public goods, and externalities.
- Be able to apply tools from microeconomics to improve managerial and policy decision-making in order to better lead and manage in public governance.
- Be able to use economic analysis to evaluate public policy issues.
- Be able to apply and communicate private and public sector methods of addressing violations of the neoclassical model.
- Be able to comprehend and critically evaluate arguments made in public policy debates. Students should be able to read and understand the economics sections of publications such *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, or *The Economist*.
- Be able to apply the basic concepts learned in the class to other more applied classes taken in the program such as public budgeting and finance and the capstone class.

COURSE FORMAT

This is a hybrid class in which the **majority** of the lecture material will be provided online prior to each class. On Tuesday evenings, May through July, class meetings will involve brief reviews of the online material, completion of weekly lecture, group problem solving, and discussion. Online lecture materials consist of:

- i.) A weekly conceptual audio file and
- ii.) PowerPoint presentations with embedded audio.

These audio and PowerPoint files will be posted to Carmen and will focus on the assigned reading material. These files will be supplemented with additional reading material and videos on Carmen.

Each week, students should first listen to the conceptual audio file, prepare all textbook and supplemental readings, work through the PowerPoint materials, then prepare the week's problem set problems. Please note, some problem set assignments may contain a combination of introductory problems covering the current week's material (prior to our in-class discussion of the material) as well as some problems that build on our in-class discussions and problem-solving from the previous week. Assignments will contain both required and optional problems. Only the required problems will be graded, but answer keys will be provided for all of the problems.

Students are expected to prepare all reading assignments and online lecture material *prior* to each class so that they can fully contribute. **Some of the material will be challenging for you, and it is not expected that you master all of the material before the in-class session. The problem sets, the in-class sessions, the weekly TA review sessions, and our office hours will all be opportunities to clear up any confusion you may have.** On average, students are expected to spend two hours outside class for every one credit hour in class. Given that this is a four credit hour hybrid class, you can expect to be in class for two hours each Tuesday evening and spend approximately two hours each week consuming on-line lecture material. Those are the "in class hours". The outside-of-class hours will typically involve readings, studying, and working on problem sets.

The in-class sessions will be interactive. While there is no explicit grade for class participation, there has been a high correlation between class participation and problem set and exam grades. If you miss a class, plan to get the notes from a classmate (not the TA or instructor).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The course grade is based on performance on problem set assignments (33%) and two exams (33% ea).

Assignments *Assignments* will consist of problem sets. Problem sets are due to Carmen on Thursdays by 11:59pm beginning with Problem Set 1 which is due 5/17. *Late assignments will not be accepted and receive no credit. To ensure fairness to all students, it is necessary to strictly enforce the no late assignments policy.*

The lowest problem set grade (including late or missed) from Problem Set 2 through Problem Set 8 will be dropped. *****Problem Sets 1 and 9 will not be dropped.*****

Note that there is a problem set due the first week of class. Prior experience has demonstrated that students with strong algebra skills do substantially better in this course. As such, Problem Set 1 is algebra-based and an incentive to refresh these skills very early in the semester. *It is also offered with plenty of support.* First, there is a Math Review module on Carmen that contains all of the review and

practice materials you need to brush up for Problem Set 1. Second, I (Dr. Young) will offer algebra review sessions and extra office hours the week before the semester begins for any students who would like help working through the review materials. If your schedule does not permit you to attend any of the algebra review sessions or office hours, please reach out and let me know when you are free. *I (Dr. Young) have a lot of experience helping students get up to speed with the math required for PA 6030 and I am happy to meet with you to do this.*

Exams Exam questions may stem from assigned readings, problem sets, and class discussions. Answer keys for assignments and exams will be made available. We will discuss the format of each exam closer to the time it occurs.

GRADING

The course is graded A – E, with the weighted distribution outlined in the course requirements section. Transformation of numerical grade to letter grade will be according to the schedule:

A	93 – 100	B	83 – 87	C	73 – 77	D	64 – 67
A-	90 – 92	B-	80 – 82	C-	70 – 72	E	63 and below
B+	88 – 89	C+	78 – 79	D+	68 – 69		

GRADE APPEALS

The assigned grade is designed to show the overall quality of work performed by each student. If you believe that any grade was not properly assigned you may write a brief letter explaining why you believe the grade was incorrectly assigned. The letter and assignment must be submitted within one week of receiving the graded assignment back. Each appeal will be considered, and if a re-grade is performed, the entire assignment will be re-graded. The final grade may be greater, less, or equal to the original grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

While students may work together on preparing problem set assignments, each student is required to turn in his or her own work in his or her own words. Collaboration on exams is strictly forbidden, and violators are subject to all Ohio State rules on academic misconduct.

From: <http://oaa.osu.edu/coamfaqs.html#academicmisconductstatement>: “The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University’s [Code of Student Conduct](#) and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University’s Code of Student Conduct may constitute “Academic Misconduct.” Sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.”

“In the Ohio State University’s [Code of Student Conduct](#), Section 3335-23-04 defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process.” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to)

plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#) is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct."

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web page: <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam.html>
- *Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity*: <http://oaa.osu.edu/coamtensuggestions.html>
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity*: www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.html

ACCOMODATION POLICY

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the **Office of Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS)** by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614--292--5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1--800--273--TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org. Also, the OSU Student Advocacy Center is a resource to help students navigate OSU and to resolve issues that they encounter at OSU – visit <http://advocacy.osu.edu/> .

GLENN COLLEGE DIVERSITY VALUES

The Glenn College is committed to nurturing a diverse and inclusive environment for our students, faculty, staff, and guests that celebrates the fundamental value and dignity of everyone by recognizing differences and supporting individuality. We are dedicated to creating a safe space and promoting civil discourse that acknowledges and embraces diverse perspectives on issues and challenges that affect our community.

WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS For each credit, there should be about an hour of in class meeting time and 2 hours out of class work per week. For a four-credit class, you can expect an average of 8 hours of work outside of class completing readings, assignments and preparing for exams, *in addition* to consuming the audio-embedded PowerPoint lecture slides.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Please do not pack up early.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topics	Due
1	5/15	Introduction (P&R: 1; C: 2) Supply and Demand (P&R: 2.1-2.3, 2.7; C: 3)	Problem Set 1 (due 5/17)
2	5/22	Finish Supply and Demand and Consumer Choice (P&R: 3)	Problem Set 2
3	5/29	Demand (P&R: 4.1-4.5) & Demand elasticity (P&R: 2.4-2.5)	Problem Set 3
4	6/5	Short Run Production & Costs (P&R: 6.1-6.2 & 7.1-7.2)	Problem Set 4
5	6/12	Long Run Production and Costs (P&R: 6.3-6.4 & 7.3-7.4; C: 77-84) Uncertainty and Consumer Behavior (P&R: 5.1-5.6)	Problem Set 5
6	6/19	Midterm exam (Covers P&R 1-7)	
7	6/26	Perfect Competition and Profit Maximization (P&R: 8; C: 84-90)	
8	7/3	Analysis of Competitive Markets & Monopoly Market Power (P&R: 9, 10.1-10.4, 10.7, 11.1-11.4; C: 90-96)	Problem Set 6
9	7/10	Market Power, Oligopoly, Games and Competitive Strategy (P&R: 12.1-12.4, 12.6 & 13.1-13.7; C: 96-108)	Problem Set 7
10	7/17	Investment, Time, and Capital Markets (P&R: 15) General Equilibrium, Efficiency, and Gains from Trade (P&R: 16)	Problem Set 8
11	7/24	Market Failures: Information Asymmetry, Externalities & Public Goods (P&R: 17-18)	Problem Set 9
12	7/31	8:00pm – 9:45pm Final Exam (focus on material since the midterm)	

Notes: "P&R" = Pindyck & Rubinfeld, "C" = Cleaver

All problem sets are due on Carmen on Thursdays by 11:59 pm.