



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

John Glenn College of Public Affairs

PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMICS 6030

FALL 2021

4 credit hours

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Tu/Th 11:10am-1:00pm

Dr. NEAL H. HOOKER

Professor of Food Policy

hooker.27@osu.edu

Office Hours virtual (Zoom) or in-person (PH 210R)

Monday -Thursday 2:00 -3:00 PM and by appointment

Teaching Assistant

Angie Westover-Munoz

westover-munoz.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Zoom Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00-1:30pm,

Thursday 6:30-7:30pm

and by appointment

Course Description: An overview of microeconomics; consumer and firm decision making, the role of markets, and when markets may/may not work; presented in the context of public affairs decision making.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Understand the tools of microeconomics and how they apply to public policy (Econ 1, Econ 3).
- Explain the causes and consequences of violations to the neoclassical model (Econ 2).
- Refine their analytical and communication skills.

Required Text:

Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld. 2017. *Microeconomics*, 9th Edition, Prentice Hall. ISBN-13: 978-0134184241.

- There are (cheaper) earlier editions. If you use one check to make sure you review any newer text and examples. Renting might be the best option. There are also study guides for this series of textbooks that can provide extra practice questions. I generally **don't** recommend buying access to the online tools marketed by the publisher.

Recommended Text:

Cleaver, Tony. 2014. *Economics: The Basics*. 3rd Edition, Routledge. ISBN 978-1-138-02354-3.

- A good additional reading, particularly for those who haven't studied any macro-economics.

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.

Carmen: Lecture slides, links, announcements, answer keys, grades, how to upload assignments, communication tools and other information as needed.

Expectations: This class will meet in-person, and I expect you to attend, prepared having read the material ready to ask any questions that arise. Any indication of academic misconduct **must and will** be reported to The Ohio State University Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). Make sure you have read OSU's Code of Student Conduct <http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/>. In particular, 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.

OSU and 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.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct, 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

Assignments and policy unpacked responses are to be **individual work** and should be uploaded to Carmen by 5:00pm on the due date. Late submissions may be deducted points.

Assignments will include numerical and analytical questions. They are intended to test your understanding and provide practice for the exams, as such they should be individual work.

Policy unpacked focus on the economic principles/models underlying a particular policy. Designed to provide practice in explaining the intuition behind a policy using various economic principles/models. Identify the underlying market failure, suggest what is being targeted by the policy and why this particular tool might be appropriate. Are alternative approaches available? When and why might a policy not work? What uncertainty exists, and why? Are there (potential) consequences in related markets or for certain stakeholders? What trade-offs exist? The key to these exercises is to practice writing – precisely – using economic principles and “language”. There will be no single “right or wrong” response. We are looking for internal consistency in your reasoning, for your technical writing skills, and your ability to demonstrate an understanding of the underlying economic principles/models. Each answer is to be **~500 words**.

Exams will include short policy unpacked questions, along with questions similar to those in the assignments.

Grades:

Assignments (6, best 5 count)	25%	90-92.9%	A-	93% or more	A		
Policy Unpacked (6, best 5 count)	25%	80.0-82.9%	B-	83.0-86.9%	B	87.0-89.9%	B+
Exam 1	25%	70.0-72.9%	C-	73.0-76.9%	C	77.0-79.9%	C+
Exam 2	25%	less than 63%	E	63.0-66.9%	D	67.0-69.9%	D+
TOTAL	100%	There will be up to 5% of bonus points available during the course					

Accommodation Policy

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university’s [request process](#), managed by Student Life Disability Services. 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.

FERPA and Privacy in CarmenZoom Statement: Video and audio recordings of class lectures will be part of the classroom activity. The video and audio recording is used for educational use/purposes and may be made available to all students presently enrolled in the course. Please note that you are not allowed to share these recordings. This is to protect your FERPA rights and those of your fellow students.

Student Wellness: 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 <https://ccs.osu.edu/> or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 4th Floor of the PAES Building. 24 hour emergency help is also available through the National 24/7 Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Writing Consulting: Students wishing to have additional help with writing can meet with a consultant at the Writing Center (<https://cstw.osu.edu/writing-center>).

Library Assistance: The Glenn College has a dedicated librarian at OSU Libraries, Carly Dearborn, Assistant Professor, Public Policy Archivist and Interim Public Affairs Librarian, dearborn.8@osu.edu 614-247-1605 who can help provide research assistance. For more information and links to some common public affairs resources <https://guides.osu.edu/c.php?g=290952&p=1950104>

Glenn College Diversity Values Statement: 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.

Master's Program Goals (MA/MPA)

Goal 1 (G1): The ability to lead and manage in public governance

Goal 2 (G2): The ability to participate in and contribute to the policy process

Goal 3 (G3): The ability to analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions

Goal 4 (G4): The ability to articulate and apply a public service perspective

Goal 5 (G5): The ability to communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry

Goal 6 (G6): The ability to integrate, synthesize, and apply knowledge across the curriculum in a professional public service context

Goal 7 (G7): The ability to interact effectively with public policy and administration professionals from a broad range of sectors, using professional competencies common to the field

PUBAFRS 6030

- Econ 1 - Evaluate the quality and validity of economic information (G2, G4, G6)
- Econ 2 - Apply and communicate private and public sector methods of addressing violations of the neoclassical model (G2, G6)
- Econ 3 - Analyze and evaluate alternative methods of revenue generation and allocation (G1, G2, G3, G5, G7)

Class Schedule

Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignment Due Dates
8/24/2021	Introduction - What is Economics?	P&R 1 C 1	Introduction video due 5pm August 25
8/26/2021			Assignment 1 due 5pm August 27
8/31/2021	Tools	P&R 2 C 2	Policy Unpacked 1 due 5pm September 3
9/2/2021			
9/7/2021	Demand	P&R 3, 4 & 5 C 3	Assignment 2 due 5pm September 10
9/9/2021			
9/14/2021			
9/16/2021 no class			Policy Unpacked 2 due 5pm September 17
9/21/2021			
9/23/2021	Production Costs	P&R 6 & 7 C 4	Assignment 3 due 5pm October 1
9/28/2021			
9/30/2021			
10/5/2021			
10/7/2021			Policy Unpacked 3 due 5pm October 8
10/12/2021	Exam 1, in class		
10/14/2021	Fall break, no class		
10/19/2021	Perfect Competition	P&R 8 & 9	Assignment 4 due 5pm October 22
10/21/2021			
10/26/2021			
10/28/2021	Monopoly	P&R 10 & 11	Policy Unpacked 4 due 5pm October 29
11/2/2021			
11/4/2021	Imperfect Competition	P&R 12 & 13	Assignment 5 due 5pm November 12
11/9/2021			
11/11/2021	Veteran's day, no class		
11/16/2021	Input Markets	P&R 14 C 6	
11/18/2021	Money and Banking	P&R 15 C 7	Policy Unpacked 5 due 5pm November 19
11/23/2021	General Equilibrium	P&R 16 C 8	Assignment 6 due 5pm November 26
11/25/2021	Thanksgiving day, no class		
11/30/2021	Market Failures and Government Interventions	P&R 17 & 18 C 5	Policy Unpacked 6 due 5pm December 3
12/2/2021			
12/7/2021			
12/13/2021	Exam 2 12:00pm-1:45pm		