

**PUBLIC FINANCE: TAXATION
ECONOMICS EC3329A-001
Department of Economics
Western University**

September 2024

Instructor: Hans Martinez
Office: 4064 SSC
Phone: 519-661-2111
E-mail: hmarti33@uwo.ca

Office hours: Online, Fridays 2–4 pm. Links will be posted on OWL. In-person office hours will be held two weeks before and one week after the midterm.

Delivery mode: In-person.

Meeting time(s): Tuesdays 10:30 am–12:30 pm; Thursdays 11:30 am–12:30 pm

Classroom: AHB-1B04

Course website: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4078 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite/Antirequisite Note:

The prerequisite for this course is **Economics 2261A/B**.

The antirequisite for this course is **Economics 2160A/B**, and it can be waived with special permission.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Description:

A positive and normative analysis of government revenues, incentive effects of taxes, tax incidence, and Canadian tax policy.

Course Objectives:

This course covers the economics of taxation from both a theoretical and applied viewpoint. It is one of two courses in the Public Finance sequence. ECON 3328 focuses on government expenditure.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Apply public finance theory to analyze the incidence and welfare effects of each major type of tax.
- Use data from the national and public accounts to explain the level, growth, and composition of taxes.
- Distinguish rigorously between positive and normative analyses of taxation.
- Explain the implications of modern empirical studies for the analysis of the effects of taxes.
- Solve standard analytical problems in tax theory
- Apply the main insights of optimal tax theory and the theory of the second best to tax policy.
- Assess and evaluate arguments for discussions on tax reform.

Textbook(s) and Course Materials:

The required textbook: Rosen, Harvey S., Jean-Francois Wen and Tracy Snoddon (2016), Public Finance in Canada, 6th edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, Toronto. Bookstore link [here](#).

The Connect platform associated with the textbook will be used to assign assessments. To register for this class, click [here](#). The textbook will be complemented with articles that will be assigned throughout the course.

Assessments and Grading:

Assessment	Chapters Covered	Date	Location & Time	Weight of Final Grade
Quiz 1	14	Sep 26	During class, at the classroom (AHB-1B04)	20% (4 top of the 6)
Quiz 2	15	Oct 3		
Quiz 3	16	Oct 10		
Quiz 4	17	Nov 7		
Quiz 5	18	Nov 21		
Quiz 6	19, 21	Dec 5		
Midterm	1,2,14-16	Oct 22		40%
Final	17-19,21	TBD*	TBD*	40%

* The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. The location and date will be announced once assigned.

Quizzes

There will be six quizzes. Only the top four quizzes will be counted towards the final grade. Quizzes will be assigned online through Connect, the platform associated with the textbook, or in-class. All quizzes will be 30-40 minutes long and held during class time at the classroom. Solutions for in-class quizzes will be solved in class and will not be posted.

In-class quizzes have flexible grading, meaning that the 2 lowest quiz scores are dropped from the calculation of your grade. For this reason, self-attestation is not accepted for quizzes, in accordance with University policy.

Midterm and Final exams

The midterm exam will be held during class time. The material for the exams consists of the topics covered in class and assigned readings. The table below indicates what material will be covered in each exam. Note that the final exam is not cumulative. Both exams will be 90 minutes long and consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Students will need an understanding of the concepts and models, and how models can be used to interpret news, public discussions, and data. Exams are closed book. During exams, students are forbidden to communicate with any person other than an examination proctor or the instructor.

Please note that the midterm exam is considered central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation as outlined in the *Policy Regarding Academic Accommodation*. To be clear, students cannot self-attest for the midterm exam. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will have the weight of the midterm shifted to the final exam; there are no make-up midterms. Also, note that the University policy precludes students to self-attest for the final exam.

Course Schedule and Tentative Outline of Topics

Week	Week Start Date	Chapter	Subject
W1	Sep 9	1&14	Intro; Taxation and Income Distribution
W2	Sep 16	14	Partial/General Equilibrium
W3	Sep 23	2&15	Welfare Economics/ Taxation and Efficiency
W4	Sep 30*	15	Taxation and Efficiency
W5	Oct 7	16	Efficient and Equitable Taxation; Review
Reading Week	Oct 14		
W6	Oct 21	1,2,14-16	Midterm
W7	Oct 28	17	Personal Income Tax
W8	Nov 4	17-18	Personal Income Tax/Personal Taxation and Behaviour
W9	Nov 11	18	Personal Taxation and Behaviour
W10	Nov 18	19	Consumption Tax
W11	Nov 25	21	Corporation Tax
W12	Dec 2	21	Corporation Tax; Review

* National Truth and Reconciliation Day, no class.

All dates and times are tentative as they must be approved by Exam Central. Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and posted in OWL, accordingly. Students are expected to know and can be tested on additional material presented in lectures but not included in the book.

Professionalism, Privacy, and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by **copyright**. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without the written consent of the instructor.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

Communication and Email:

Use the office hours and the class to communicate with me. Leave emails to communicate with me regarding absences, academic accommodations, or other logistics not detailed in this syllabus.

When communicating through email:

- Use your UWO email address in all communications.
- In your email subject, please include ECON3329A(001) and your student number.
- I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours except for weekends and/or holidays.

Tips on How to be Successful in this Class:

- Read the textbook before class. Read the chapter we will cover during the week.
- Participate in class and do not be afraid to ask questions. Feel free to interrupt me to clarify a concept. I will pause frequently to encourage students to ask questions.
- Connect with others. Try forming study groups and meet regularly for study and peer support.
- Come to office hours
- Do not skip class
- Check OWL/Brightspace regularly
- Take note of the assignments, and exam schedule. Plan to distribute your work ahead of busy weeks.
- Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching.

PLEASE NOTE
DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR FALL 2024

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. A [*new academic consideration and flexibility in assessment*](#) policy is in effect starting September 2024. Students can miss one assessment per course per term without medical documentation. Faculty can designate one assessment per course for which students **cannot** self-attest.
3. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
4. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.
5. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 4.

6. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
7. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14. **Please note the relevant deadlines.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals. The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle

the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

8. **Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution** (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.
9. **ADD AND DROP DEADLINES:**

- Deadline to **ADD** first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 13, 2024**
- Deadline to **DROP/WITHDRAW** first term full or half course: **Mon, Dec 2, 2024**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).
- **Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted:** Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **48 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf
- **Documentation for Accommodation:** Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here:
https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html
- **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unit may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.