

PUBLIC FINANCE - EXPENDITURE ECONOMICS 2159B-001

Department of Economics
Western University

January 2023

Instructor: D. McKeon

Office: SSC 4052

Office Hours: Thursday 12-1 pm

Delivery mode: In-person

Classroom meeting time(s): Tu 9:30 – 10:30 am; Th 9:30 – 11:30 am

Classroom Location: B&GS 0165

Email: dmckeon@uwo.ca

Undergraduate Inquiries: econugrd@uwo.ca or 519-661-3507

Undergraduate Office: SSC 4057

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:

The prerequisite for this course is Economics 2150A/B. The antirequisite for this course is Economics 3328A/B

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of 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 in your fees. This decision can not be appealed.

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

Course Description

This course will cover the expenditure side of public finance. The course will focus on welfare economics, market failures, cost benefit analysis, public choice and the role of government. Specific expenditure programs, in a Canadian context, will also be examined.

Course Objectives

Students will examine the rationale for public provision of goods or services.

Students will learn to evaluate the efficiency of program spending.

Students will be prepared to engage in debates on the public vs. private provision of services such as health care, pensions etc..

Required Course Materials

Textbook: Dahlby, Smith, Boothe: Public Finance in Canada, 5th Canadian edition (McGraw-Hill).

Students are reminded not all of the course subject matter is covered in the text. Class notes and discussion make up an **integral** part of the **required** course material.

Assessments & Grades

There will be two midterm tests and a final exam.

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Midterm I 25%

Midterm II 25%

Final Exam 50%

The midterms must be written on the assigned dates. Make up exams will not be given. ***In extraordinary circumstances, which must be supported by verifiable official documentation,*** the marks allocated to a missed midterm may be redistributed to the final exam.

Important Tentative Dates

Midterm I..... Feb 9
Midterm II..... March 16
Final Test..... set by registrar.

Course Outline

Introduction to Public Finance in Canada

Chapter 1

Welfare economics	Chapter 2
Cost benefit analysis	Chapter 3*
Public Goods	Chapter 4*
Externalities	Chapter 5*
Income distribution	Chapter 6*
Political economy	Chapters 7, 8
Health Care	Chapter 9
Social Welfare Programs	Chapter 12 *
Public Pensions	Chapter 11 *
Education	Chapter 13 *
Analysis of expenditure	TBA

* Additional reading will be assigned as the course progresses.

Additional topics may be taken up, if time allows.

Please Note. The above is a tentative course outline. I may amend the order and/ or content of the material as the course progresses. **Students are responsible for keeping abreast of course developments at all times. All changes are announced in class.**

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 written consent.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for Winter 2023

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. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.

3. **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.

4. **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 3.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped, or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.

6. **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.ht

[ml#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.

7. **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.

8. Note the following **add and drop deadlines**:

- Deadline to add a second term half course: **Tuesday, January 17, 2023**
- Deadline to drop a second term half course: **Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

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 tests or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **24 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 unity 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.