

## JSGS 805 ECONOMICS FOR POLICY ANALYSIS

	University of Regina Campus	University of Saskatchewan Campus
<b>Instructor:</b>	Jim Marshall	
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Weekdays 8:30 to 4:30 by appointment	
<b>Office Location:</b>	214 Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus	
<b>Term:</b>	Fall 2014	
<b>Room:</b>	ED 191	
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Wednesdays 7:00 –9:45 pm	

### CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines economic concepts and tools that are fundamental for understanding and conducting public policy analysis using an economic approach. It is intended for students who have had limited exposure to economics and geared towards preparing them for more advanced and/or more specialized topics in economic analysis of public policies.

### COURSE CONTENT AND APPROACH

The purpose of this course is to provide an economic framework for the analysis of public policy. The course uses mainly microeconomic concepts to examine when and how the government should intervene in the economy. Using the starting point of policy as intervention, the course examines the circumstances under which government involvement is most likely to be desirable. The course then moves to consider the key instruments that government uses in its intervention. In the examination of these two broad issues, the course pays particular attention to how people and firms behave and how they are likely to respond to policy instruments. The course also develops the key concepts associated with cost-benefit analysis and shows how these concepts are used in the analysis of public policy.

### COURSE OUTLINE

#### Part 1: Introduction to the study of economics

Ch 1- 3 Weimer and Vining (2011)

Introduction and Ch. 1, Ch. 2, Appendix to Ch. 2 Krugman et al. (2006)

#### Part 2: Building the Demand Curve

Origins of demand/ meaning of demand

Ch. 10, 11 Krugman et al. (2006)

Characteristics of demand.

Ch 3 pp. 59-65, Ch 5 pp. 117-132, Krugman et al (2006)

### **Part 3: Building the Supply Curve**

Cost structures/ Meaning of supply

Ch. 8, 9, Krugman et al (2006)

Characteristics of Supply

Ch 3 pp.65-81, Ch. 5 pp. 132- 139 Krugman et al (2006)

### **Part 4: Markets and Equilibrium**

Supply and demand together; market disruptions; market equilibrium

Ch. 4, Ch.7, Ch. 13, Krugman et al (2006)

Ch. 4, Weimer and Vining (2011)

### **Part 5: Market Failure and Market Intervention**

Ch. 18, Ch. 19, Ch. 20, Krugman et al (2006).

Ch 5, Ch. 6, Ch. 7 Weimer and Vining (2011)

### **Part 6: Public Policy: using the lessons of supply and demand**

Affecting behaviour, tools of policy.

Ch 8, Ch. 9, Ch. 10, Ch 12, Ch 13, Weimer and Vining (2011)

## REQUIRED READINGS

Krugman, Paul, Robin Wells, and Anthony Myatt. 2006. *Microeconomics*: 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Edition. Worth Publishers. ISBN: 978-0716786894. (On Reserve in Archer Library)

Weimer, David L. and Aidan R. Vining. 2011. *Policy Analysis*, 5/e. Longman. ISBN: 978-0-205-78130-0. (On Reserve in Archer Library)

## EVALUATION

Quiz 1	10%
Quiz 2	10%
Mid-Term	20% October 22 or 29
Quiz 3	10%
Final Exam	40% December 17: 19:00-22:00
Participation	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be submitted by the due date. Exceptions can only be made when there are documented medical reasons or extraordinary emergencies, in which cases you are required to notify the instructor before the due date.

## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

U of R: Students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for accommodations are encouraged to discuss this need with the instructor and to contact the Coordinator of Special Needs Services at 585-4631.

U of S: Students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for accommodations are encouraged to come and discuss accommodations with the instructor, and to contact Disability Services for Students (DSS) at 966-7273.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

U of R: Ensuring that you understand and follow the principles of academic integrity and conduct as laid out in the University of Regina's Graduate Calendar is vital to your success in graduate school (available at [http://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/calendar/policy\\_univ.shtml#conduct](http://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/calendar/policy_univ.shtml#conduct)). Ensuring that your work is your

own and reflects both your own ideas and those of others incorporated in your work is important: ensuring that you acknowledge the ideas, words, and phrases of others that you use is a vital part of the scholarly endeavour. If you have any questions at all about academic integrity in general or about specific issues, contact your course instructor and to discuss your questions.

U of S: Understanding and following the principles of academic integrity and conduct as laid out in the University of Saskatchewan's Guidelines for Academic Conduct is vital to your success in graduate school (as attached; and available at [http://www.usask.ca/university\\_council/reports/archives/guide\\_conduct.shtml](http://www.usask.ca/university_council/reports/archives/guide_conduct.shtml)). Ensuring that your work is your own and reflects both your own ideas and those of others incorporated in your work is important: ensuring that you acknowledge the ideas, words, and phrases of others that you use is a vital part of the scholarly endeavour. If you have any questions at all about academic integrity in general or about specific issues, contact any faculty member and we can discuss your questions.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

You are expected to attend every lecture and participate actively by paying attention, asking/answering relevant questions, and sharing your comments, observations, and thoughts on relevant topics. If you are unable to attend a lecture due to documented medical reasons or extraordinary emergencies, please advise the instructor beforehand.

## **GRADE DESCRIPTORS**

Available on the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy website.