

## ECN 703: Public Sector Economics

Winter 2023

Thursdays 12:00pm - 3pm, TRS 1-119

### Instructor Information

---

- **Instructor Name:** Obeid Ur Rehman
- **Office Hours:** Email and/or Zoom Meeting (by appointment)  
[Link](#) to sign-up for zoom meeting. Available appointment slots will be updated weekly.  
If available slots are filled or not convenient, we can schedule an alternate time.  
Please feel free to set up joint meetings with other students if that suits you.
- **Course Website:** [my.ryerson.ca](http://my.ryerson.ca) (for courses using D2L)
- **Email Address:** [obeid@torontomu.ca](mailto:obeid@torontomu.ca)  
*TMU e-mail accounts are to be used for communication between faculty and students.*

### Course Description

---

This course analyzes the role that governments play in the market economy and in the lives of its citizens. It investigates reasons for government intervention in markets and the impact of government programs on the behavior and welfare of its citizens. The course also studies the role that municipalities, cities, provinces and states play in an increasingly globalized economy.

Prerequisite: ECN 504. 1 Credit

### Course Details

---

#### Teaching Methods

The course will be taught in person. Classes will be a combination of lectures and discussions. Attendance and class participation are highly encouraged and also count towards your grade.

#### Course Materials

**Required Textbook:** Jonathan Gruber, Public Finance & Public Policy, Macmillan Learning, Sixth Edition. (5th edition is also fine).

The readings include chapters from the Gruber textbook noted above, selected papers published in academic journals, and policy reports. Electronic copies of the papers and reports will be posted on the course's shell on D2L.

## Evaluation

Evaluation Component	Percentage of Final Grade
Final Exam	40%
Assignments	52% (4 x 13%)
Class Participation	8%
Total:	100%

**Class Participation:** This portion of your grade will be determined entirely through your interaction with your classmates and me during the presentations and lectures in the course. You can receive this grade by attending class, reading assigned chapters before each class, contributing to discussions, and asking questions.

**Assignments:** There will be 4 assignments over the semester, comprised of analytical and short-answer questions. Questions will be distributed at least one week before the due dates. You are required to work on the assignments on your own. Upon completion, you will have to submit a scanned or typed copy of your answers in PDF format through D2L by the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Final exam:** A comprehensive in-person final exam comprised of analytical short-answer and multiple-choice questions will be conducted during the final examination period. The exam will be based on the readings, lecture slides, lectures and assignments.

**Accommodations:** Students missing an assignment will receive a grade of zero if satisfactory documentation/justification is not provided. If proper documentation/justification is provided, *before the due date*, an accommodation may be granted for an extension or to shift the weight of the missed component to the other submission of the same component.

## Topics and Course Schedule

**Updates:** The reading list will be updated over the semester. The most current version will be on D2L.

Week	Class Date	Tentative Topics and Readings	Due
Week 1	Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction: Chapter 1	
Week 2	Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	Theory and Empirics Review: Chapter 2 and Chapter 3	
Week 3	Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Externalities: Chapters 5 and 6	
Week 4	Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	Public Goods: Chapter 7	<b>Assignment 1</b> <b>Tue Feb 7<sup>th</sup></b>
Week 5	Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	State and Local Govt Expenditure: Chapter 10	
		READING WEEK	
Week 7	Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Social Insurance: Chapters 12 and 14	<b>Assignment 2</b> <b>Tue Feb 28<sup>th</sup></b>
Week 8	Mar 9 <sup>th</sup>	Health	
Week 9	Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Education: Chapter 11	
Week 10	Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Taxation: Chapter 18	<b>Assignment 3</b> <b>Tue Mar 21<sup>st</sup></b>
Week 11	Mar 30 <sup>th</sup>	Tax Incidence and Equity: Chapter 19	
Week 12	Apr 6 <sup>th</sup>	Taxes on Labor and Savings: Chapter 21 and 22	
Week 13	Apr 13 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Assignment 4</b> <b>Tue April 11<sup>th</sup></b>

Exam Period	TBD		<b><i>Final Exam</i></b>
-------------	-----	--	--------------------------

## University Policies

---

Students are reminded that they are required to adhere to all relevant university policies found in their online course shell in D2L and/or on [the Senate website](#).

## Acknowledgments

---

This course builds on the work of Laura Turner, Yu Wang, and Ashley Craig. I would like to thank and acknowledge them for their generosity in sharing their materials.