

University of La Verne - Main Campus  
College of Business and Public Management (CBPM)  
Department of Economics  
Instructor: Professor Ryan Lee

**Course:** ECON 327 Public Finance  
**Meeting Time:** M/W 7:40am–9:15am  
**Meeting Location:** Landis Academic Center  
(LAC) 101A  
**Zoom:** <https://ulv-edu.zoom.us/j/8142881379>

**Office Hours:** M/W 11:15am-12:15pm *and by appt.*  
**Office:** Landis Academic Center (LAC) 214  
**Email:** RLEE2@laverne.edu

**Materials:**

1. **Recommended Text:** *Public Finance and Public Policy*, 6th Edition by Johnathan Gruber. **Note:** Previous editions can be used, students are responsible for material that is in the 6th edition if there is a difference. The text is recommended, not required; not purchasing could save you money.
2. **Calculator:** A simple four-function calculator or non-programmable calculator can be used on exams. Programmable and graphing calculators are prohibited. Sharing calculators on exams are also a breach of academic integrity.
3. **Stapler/Paperclips:** Homework must be stapled or paperclipped together when handed in if more than a single sheet.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Compare and contrast measures of social well-being.
2. Identify and describe various market failures arising from externalities and public goods.
3. Evaluate various government or market solutions to different externalities and public goods.
4. Define and explain how basic fiscal policy functions.
5. Evaluate various types of taxation.

**Homework and Discussion Boards:** Homework and Discussion Boards will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. They are completion only, but may be marked to provide feedback. The lowest homework grade will be dropped. Multiple page homeworks that are not stapled will have half a point deducted. Homework and Discussion Boards are worth 15% of the grade. All are out of one point.

**Literature Review:** Students will write a literature review on a topic of their choosing. The Literature review will be the main project for the course. We will work together to build towards the complete literature review as the course progresses. I will happily read rough drafts. Part of the goal here is to prepare (econ) students for the Senior Project. The literature review is worth 20% of the grade.

**Annotated Bibliography:** To help students write their literature review, an annotated bibliography will be due before the literature review. Worth 15% of the grade.

**Policy Brief:** Students will then distill their literature review into a policy brief. Worth 15% of the grade.

**Presentation:** Students will give a presentation on the topic they picked for the literature review. Worth 15% of the grade.

**Midterm Exam:** There will be one Midterm Exams; tentatively scheduled for **TBD**, the Midterm is worth 20% of the grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance is **NOT** required, but may be taken regularly. Material covered in class may go beyond the scope of the text so students are encouraged to attend.

**Valid Excuses:** In the case of your own illness or injury, a note from a physician, physician's assistant, or a nurse-practitioner that says, among other things, **"..unable to attend.."** is required. The words **"unable to attend"** must be precisely stated in the note. If the note leaves any ambiguity on this point you will not be excused. Further, the note must be provided to the instructor within one week of the missed course event (in cases of extended illness or incapacity, the note must be provided within a week of the end of your illness or incapacity, and it should specify the period of your inability to attend the course). With regard to family emergencies, you must provide verifiable documentation of the emergency. Given the vast array of family emergencies the instructor will provide precise guidance as to what constitutes adequate documentation. Unless the emergency is critical you should notify the instructor in advance of your absence from the scheduled course event. In cases of critical emergencies, you must notify the instructor *within one week* of your absence.

For University-approved curricular and extra-curricular activities, verifiable documentation is also required. The student should obtain from the unit or department sponsoring the activity a letter (or class absence form) indicating the anticipated absence(s). The letter must be presented to the instructor at least one week prior to the first absence.

In the case of religious holidays, the student should notify the instructor by the third week of the course of any potential conflicts.

**Academic Integrity:** Breaches of academic integrity will **NOT** be tolerated. Breaches, include but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with academic work of other students, using non-approved calculators and signing attendance sheets for other students. University policy will be followed for cases involving academic dishonesty.

Each student is responsible for performing academic tasks in such a way that honesty is not in question. Unless an exception is specifically defined by an instructor, students are expected to maintain the following standards of integrity:

All assignments of all types are to be the work of the student or students presenting the material and only those students.

Any use of wording, ideas, or findings of other persons, writers, or researchers requires the explicit citation of the source. Use of the exact wording requires a "quotation" format.

Deliberately supplying material to another student for purposes of plagiarism or academic dishonesty is culpable.

If academic dishonesty has occurred, the course will follow the procedures in the University catalog under the heading Academic Honesty:

"A faculty member who has clear evidence that academic honesty has been violated may take appropriate disciplinary action. Appropriate disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, requiring the student to rewrite a paper or retake a test, giving the student an F on the assignment and/or in the course, and/or recommending expulsion. . ." (Link-Academic Integrity)

**Students with Accessibility Issues:** Students with accessibility issues (apparent or invisible) are invited to confidentially discuss their situation with Accessibility Services. If a student wishes to receive an academic accommodation, it is required that their documentation be on file with Accessibility Services, who can, in confidence, provide information and guidance. Early notification helps us all work together in

the most effective ways. However, I need two weeks notice for any accommodation. (Link-Accessibility Services)

**Withdraw Date:** The last day to withdraw from the course with a W is April 17th.

**Grading:** Values for assignments will be as follows:

Assignment Weights

Item	Percent of Grade
Literature Review	20
Annotated Bibliography	15
Policy Brief	15
Presentation	15
Midterm	20
HW and Discussion Boards	15

**Grade Distribution:** The final grade will be the sum of points earned. That total will be converted to a letter grade based on the following table. The instructor reserves the right to assign a *higher* letter grade than the point total, but will never assign a *lower* letter grade.

Grade Distribution

Grade	Total Points	Grade	Total Points
A	$\geq 94$	C	74-76.99
A-	90-93.99	C-	70-73.99
B+	87-89.99	D+	67-69.99
B	84-86.99	D	64-66.99
B-	80-83.99	F	Below 64
C+	77-79.99		

**Changes:** Modification of policies may be required during the semester. Announcements of these changes will be made in class.

**Note:** All links and email addresses in the syllabus are hyperlinked.

**Amendments**

Like the US Constitution, throughout history my syllabus needs to be updated.

1. Students arriving after another student has completed the exam and left the classroom, will be unable to take the exam.
2. Documentation of an absence must be provided within two weeks of the absence. Note: School vacations count towards the two weeks.
3. Failing to provide documentation for an absence can be considered academic dishonesty.
4. All assignments must be turned in in-class, unless written permission is given stating otherwise.
5. Grades will not be emailed to students. A number (or letter) does not tell a student how to improve and where they erred.

6. Regular class attendance is required for extra help from me on the Paper.
7. If a student schedules an appointment to meet with the instructor outside of office hours and fails to show up, fails to cancel in a timely manner, or fails to provide acceptable documentation for missing the appointment, they will not be allowed to schedule any more appointments outside of office hours.
8. Emails will be responded to by the end of the next business day. Emails received after 5pm are considered to be received the next business day. After the final, replies can take multiple days/weeks.
9. Students who do not respect the above the above amendment can have the response delayed one business day per superfluous email. If the student does not have the time to read and respect the syllabus, I do do not have the time to respond to that student.
10. Completion only homeworks still require sensible attempts at answering the question and *your own* answers.