



General Course Information

Instructor:	Johanna Goertz
<i>Email</i>	jgoertz@uoguelph.ca
<i>Office Location</i>	MacKinnon 731
<i>Office Hours</i>	Mon 10am-12noon, and by appointment
<i>Department/School</i>	Economics and Finance
TA	TBA

Class Schedule: Tues, Thurs 10-11:20am, MINS 300

Prerequisites Econ 2310 – Intermediate Microeconomics

Course Description

In this course, we study the public sectors from many different angles. Among others, we will cover topics such as public goods, fiscal federalism, income redistribution, health care, social welfare, taxation in general, and income, consumption, and corporate taxation in specific. The goal of this course is to provide students with tools and methods to analyse the public sector from an economist's perspective. It requires a solid understanding of microeconomics. Econ 2310 – Intermediate Microeconomics is a prerequisite.

Content

We will cover the following topics, among others:

Fundamentals of Welfare Economics and the Role of Government

Public Goods, Fiscal Federalism

Public Expenditures in Canada: Health Care, Employment Insurance, etc.

Tax Analysis and the Canadian Revenue System

For a detailed class schedule with chapters and assignment and exam dates, please refer to the Detailed Class Schedule on courselink (under 'Content'). Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the covered topics and assignments throughout the course.

Course Assessment

		Dates and Times
2 Assignments	30% 15% each.	Check courselink.
Midterm	30%	Thursday, February 25 in class
Final Exam	40%	Thursday, April 21, 7 - 9pm, room TBA.

Important Information (Including Grading Policies)

Assignments

Late and Missing Assignments

It is the students' responsibility to meet the course requirements on time. Late assignments will not be accepted unless you present a verifiable and legitimate excuse within three days of the due date of the assignment. If you have a verifiable and legitimate excuse for a late or missing assignment, we will discuss how this will be handled.

Midterm and Final

Missed Exams and Time Conflicts

Students with time conflicts with the final exam cannot register for this course. If the final exam is missed, the course is not completed.

If you have a documented medical or compassionate reason for missing the midterm, you will have an opportunity to write a make-up exam at a given date and time (there will be only one make-up midterm), or you may choose to transfer the weight to the final exam. If you fail to write the make-up exam, the weight of the midterm will be transferred to the final exam. If you miss the midterm without a legitimate excuse, your grade for the midterm will be 0%.

It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of a time conflict with the midterm exam within the first two weeks of the course and to discuss how this time conflict will be handled. After this period, it is in the instructor's discretion to decide how the time conflict will be handled.

Communication and Office Hours

I am available for students during my office hours and by appointment. Appointments have to be made ahead of time.

If you have a question about the course in general, or about the course material, please post it on the online discussion board instead of sending an email to me. Indicate the theme of the question (or the question itself, if short) in the subject line. If you have a question, it is likely that other students wonder about this, too. If you post the question, everyone can see the answer. I will answer to a posted question within 24-48 hours and during standard working times and days. If you know the answer to a posted question, do not hesitate to answer it before I do. This will be very helpful to your fellow students.

If you have a personal questions or concerns, please email me. I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours and during standard working times and days. **I do not accept or answer emails that to not come from a uoguelph account and do not have "Econ 3610" in the subject line.**

Students are required to visit the course website on courselink regularly: Announcements will only posted there and not sent by email. Students are expected to be aware of all announcements made on the website

Electronic Devices and Recording of Lectures

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

Course Resources

Textbook:

Rosen, H.S., J.-F. Wen, and T. Snodden, **Public Finance in Canada**, Fourth Canadian Edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson

Note: Several copies will be placed on reserve in the library. You may also consider buying a used textbook.

Students are required to attend lectures. Some material that will be covered in class may not be in the textbook. No comprehensive lecture notes will be posted on courselink.

Course Website:

The course website is on courselink. On the website, you will find all necessary information and materials (including the assignments) regarding the course, as well as all announcements made throughout the course and additional online materials (such as solutions to the assignments and the midterm exam). Grades will be posted there as well. The online discussion board for students provides a valuable means of communications between you and your classmates.

Students are required to visit the course website regularly: Announcements will only posted there and not sent by email. Students are expected to be aware of all announcements made on the website.

University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2015-2016/>

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the Course and Instructor Evaluation Website:

https://courseeval.uoguelph.ca/CEVAL_LOGIN.php

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, March 11, 2016**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

Skills

Numerical Problem Solving: Students will learn to use basic problem solving techniques used in microeconomics, for example calculating tax rates and equalization payments, or determining the deadweight loss of government interventions. These skills will be tested on all assignments and exams.

Analytical Problem Solving: Students will learn how to apply algebraic and graphical analysis from microeconomics to the field of public economics. They will, for example, show that voluntary public goods provision is typically inefficient, that taxation distorts economic decisions and typically leads to a deadweight loss, or that welfare programs may lead to adverse work incentives and prolonged dependence on welfare. These skills will be tested in all assignments and exams.

Problem Solving in a Real-World Context: Students will apply the above techniques to real-world scenarios, such as social welfare programs and health care in Canada, Fiscal Federalism in Canada, or the Canadian Revenue System.

Knowledge

Mathematical Methodology (see above), Microeconomic Modelling (see above), Understanding of Specific Markets (e.g., labor market, health care and public good provision), Economic Policy and Regulation (understanding, explaining, and analysing the reasons for and ramifications of government interventions).