



## General Course Information

**Instructor:**                **Johanna Goertz**  
*Email*                        jgoertz@uoguelph.ca  
*Office Location*            MacKinnon 731  
*Office Hours*                Mon, Wed, 2:30-3:30pm and by appointment  
*Department/School*        Economics and Finance

**Class Schedule:**    Mon, Wed 4-5:20pm, ALEX 309

## Course Description

This course will provide students with an overview of the systematic study of the public sector. We will look at the public sector from many different angles, and study topics such as public goods, externalities, income redistribution and taxation, elections, politicians, legislative bargaining, parties, and interest groups. More than provide an exhaustive overview of the field of public economics, this course is designed to familiarize students with methods used to study this field and to get into the habit of reading academic journal articles and introduce them to conducting research.

Students are required to have solid background knowledge of microeconomic theory.

**Please Note:** The instructor reserves the right to modify the covered topics and assignments throughout the course.

## Course Assessment

### Dates and Times

<b>Research Proposal</b>	30%		Friday, December 11, 2015, at 12noon
<b>2 Paper Reports</b>	25%	See below for more details.	To be chosen by students.
<b>3 Problem Sets</b>	45%		Check courselink for due dates.

## Important Information

### Research Proposal

Discuss a research project that you think is worthwhile doing. The proposal needs to include a clear statement of the research question, a discussion of the previous literature, why this is an important extension of the previous literature and a statement of the expected findings. Note that you do not actually have to do the research. About 3 pages single spaced, font 11. More information will be handed out separately.

### Paper Reports

Each student selects 2 papers relating to the topics of the course (not necessarily from the course outline) and writes a report about the paper in form of a referee report. The chosen paper has to contain original research. It cannot be a literature overview, an opinion piece, a newspaper article, etc. The paper report has to be given in before that specific paper is discussed in class. More information will be handed out separately.

### Late and Missing Assignments

It is the student's responsibility to meet the requirements of the course in a timely manner. If a student has a verifiable and legitimate excuse for a late or missed assignment, the student has to discuss with the instructor how this assignment will be handled.

### Communication and Office Hours

Besides the course website, I will occasionally use *email* as a means of communication with the students. Students are expected check their *uoguelph* account regularly. I will typically answer emails within 48hrs, but should not be expected to answer emails over the weekend.

I will be available for students during my office hours and by appointment.

### 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

### Required Materials:

Lecture notes and required articles. Please check courselink for a detailed class schedule with required and additional readings. The required readings are indicated with a \*. They can be found using [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org) or the university library website. All other necessary materials will be provided.

### Course Website:

The course website will be on *courselink*. Students are expected to visit the course website on a regular basis because announcements and other materials for the course will be posted there.

## 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:

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

### 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](mailto: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](#)

### Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is e.g. **March 8, 2013**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar:

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

## Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, you will have acquired the following:

### Knowledge:

Economic Policy and Regulation.

Microeconomic Modelling, especially Game Theory.

Welfare Analysis.

### Skills:

Written Communication, Academic Reading and Writing (research proposal, paper reports).

Analytical Problem Solving.

Problem Solving in a Real-World Context.

### Attitudes and Values:

Academic Integrity (especially Research Proposal and Paper Reports).