

Bryn Mawr College
Econ 214: Public Finance
Fall Semester 2022
Monday and Wednesday 1:10 PM - 2:30 PM

Contact Information:

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Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 3 – 4:15 pm

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Course Objective:

This course focuses on the role of the government in the economy. The aim is to provide an understanding of the reasons for government intervention in the economy, analyzing the benefits of possible government policies, and the response of economic agents to the government's actions. Topics include public goods, externalities, cost-benefit analysis, health care, old-age support, income redistribution, tax analysis, and the U.S. personal income tax.

Prereq. ECON 105 - Introduction to Economics.

Textbook:

The textbook for this course is *Public Finance and Public Policy* by Jonathan Gruber 6th Edition (any edition). Additional readings will be posted on Moodle.

Course Requirements:

The course requirements include homework assignments and three exams. Homework will be submitted on Moodle or in-class and must be professionally presented for full credit. Presentations will have assigned general content. Practice problems will be posted along with corresponding answer keys. These questions will be similar to the problems we solve in class and be good practice for exams. Exams 1 and 2 will be in **in class**.

Component	Date	Share in total grade
Exam 1	October 3,2022	20%
Exam 2	November 7,2022	20%
Final exam	Final exam period	25%
Homework		20 %
Class participation		15%

A letter grade of A, A-, B+, B-, B-, C+, C, C-, D, and F, will be assigned to you on the basis of your cumulative score.

A: 95%-100% A-: 90%-94% B+: 87%-89% B: 83%-86% B-: 80%-82% C+: 77%-79% C: 73%-76% C-: 70%-72% D: 60%-69% F: 0%-59%.

Homework

Homework will be due no less than one week after they are assigned. You must turn in your own work, but group effort is permitted and encouraged. Homework turned in late after the due date will be docked 15 percentage points every 24 hours.

Disability Support Services: Reasonable Accommodations

Bryn Mawr College is committed to providing equal access to students with a documented disability. Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Access Services. Students can call 610-526-7516 to make an appointment with the Director of Access Services, Deb Alder, or email her at dalder@brynmawr.edu to begin this confidential process. Once registered, students should schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible to share the verification form and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement. More information can be obtained at the Access Services website. (<http://www.brynmawr.edu/access-services/>)

Any student who has a disability-related need to record this class first must speak with the Director of Access Services and to me, the instructor. Class members need to be aware that this class may be recorded.

Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Bryn Mawr Honor Code. If you have any questions about expectations, please ask.

Tentative Course Outline:

	Topics	Chapter
August 29, 2022	Introduction and Review	1
August 31, 2022	Review: Demand, Supply, and Welfare	2
September 5, 2022	Labor Day	
September 7, 2022	Review: Budget Constraint and Consumer Theory	2
September 12, 2022	Externalities	5
September 14, 2022	Externalities	6
September 19, 2022	Public goods	7
September 21, 2022	Cost benefit analysis and Education	8,11
September 26, 2022	State and Local government expenditure	10
September 28, 2022	Exam Review	
October 3, 2022	Exam 1	
October 5, 2022	Social Insurance	12
October 10, 2022	Fall Break	
October 12, 2022	Fall Break	
October 17, 2022	Social security	13
October 19, 2022	Health insurance	15,16
October 24, 2022	Health insurance	15,16
October 26, 2022	Income Distribution and welfare	17
October 31, 2022	Income Distribution and welfare program	17
November 2, 2022	Exam Review	
November 7, 2022	Exam 2	
November 9, 2022	Taxation in the US and around the world	18
November 14, 2022	Tax incidence	19
November 16, 2022	Tax incidence	19
November 21, 2022	Tax inefficiencies and their implications	20
November 23, 2022	Thanksgiving Break	
November 28, 2022	Tax inefficiencies and their implications	20
November 30, 2022	Behavioral economics in public finance	
December 5, 2022	Tax on labor supply	21
December 7, 2022	Exam Review	