



Seminar in Applied Economics I

Public Choice Module

Syllabus

- Office:** 470E Lawrence Street Center.
- Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., or by appointment.
- Email:** brian.duncan@ucdenver.edu
- Web Page:** <http://econ.ucdenver.edu/bduncan>. All course material will be posted on canvas.
- Books:** No textbook is required for this course. Recommended books include: Public Finance: A Contemporary Application of Theory to Policy, by David Hyman; Public Finance and Public Choice, by John Cullis and Philip Jones; and The Theory of Externalities, Public Goods and Club Goods, by Richard Cornes and Todd Sandler.
- Learning Objectives:** The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with applied research in Public Choice. Students will read, discuss and critique articles from economic journals. Topics covered will include public goods theory, voting, Tiebout sorting, local and federal fiscal policy and education. Emphasis will be placed on research design and empirical methods employed in the economic literature.
- Grades:** Grades are based on a final exam scheduled for **March 11th**, a research abstract due on **March 16th at 4:30pm by email (using filename: *FirstnameLastname-ECON6054-abstract.pdf*)**, several problem sets, Quizzes, and class participation in article discussions. You may also be required to give a 5 minute paper pitch in class.

Problem Sets:	15%
Article Discussion & Quizzes:	15%
Research Abstract:	30%
Final Exam:	40%

Class Participation:

Throughout the course, we will discuss several articles taken from the economic literature. You are required to attend all classes and to show-up on time. If you miss more than 2 classes, whether excused or unexcused, your grade will be dropped one-half letter grade. If you miss more than 4 classes, the highest grade you can earn in the course is a “B”. Arriving more than 10 minutes late will count as missing ½ class. Arriving more than 20 minutes late will count as missing the entire class.

You are required to thoroughly read and comprehend each article before class. **This will require you to read each article several times before class. This is the most important requirement of this course.** While I will *direct* the discussion, students are expected to fully participate in discussion with original comments and questions. Your grade is based, in part, on how well you prepare for class discussions. However, it is impossible for one person to have a productive discussion with him or herself. Therefore, no matter how prepared one student is, his or her performance depends on how prepared other students are. If the class discussions are lively and informative, then every student will benefit. If discussions are dull and uninformed, then every student will suffer. You should think of yourself as in cooperation, not competition, with your classmates. I encourage you to meet with fellow students and discuss each article before class.

Department Seminars:

We may discuss one or more articles presented at a department seminar. If so, this will be announced in advance, and you will be required to attend the department seminar. If you are unable to attend the seminar for any reason, two points will be deducted from your Article Discussion & Quizzes score. Department seminars are typically held on Fridays from 2:15 – 3:45pm.

Communication:

In addition to announcements made and written handouts distributed in class, I may need to contact you between classes, which I'll do through individual and group email messages. **One of the requirements for this course is that you maintain your ucdenver.edu email address, check it regularly for messages.** You are responsible for any messages, including assignments and schedule changes, I send you via email.

Access & Disability: The University of Colorado Denver is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs, including students with disabilities. If you have a disability or think you may have a disability and need accommodations to succeed in this course, I encourage you to contact Disability Resources and Services (DRS) and/or speak with me as soon as you can. (DRS is located in Academic Building 1, Suite 2116, and at disabilityresources@ucdenver.edu.) I am committed to providing equal access as required by federal law, and I am interested in developing strategies for your success in this course.

Policies & Deadlines: All students are required to read and follow the policies, procedures, and deadlines in the spring 2020 CLAS Academic Policies and Deadlines found at the link below. This document is considered part of this syllabus.

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/Registrar-dev/Documents/AcademicCalendars/AcademicCalendarSpring2020.pdf>

https://clas.ucdenver.edu/faculty-staff/sites/default/files/attached-files/student_services_and_calendar.pdf

Exceptions to the course policies may be made on an individual or class basis at the instructor's discretion. A request for an exception must be made well in advance.