



PA-POEC 5307
Course Economics for Public Policy
Professor Dr. Pineres
Term Fall 2008
Meetings M 7:00-9:45

Office Phone 972-883-6228
Office Location GR 3.805
Email Address pineres@utdallas.edu
Office Hours M 4:30-5:30pm and by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

This course does not have any pre-requisites although we do use basic algebra to explore some of the concepts.

General Course Information

This course studies the problems of the economy from a macroeconomic perspective. There are four main reasons to study economics: to learn an economic way of thinking, to better understand society, to understand global affairs, and to be an informed voter. The objective is that you acquire both theoretical and practical knowledge the macro economy. When you finish this course you should have a clear understanding of the macro economy, developed skills in economic reasoning, and how it relates to your daily life and the world around you.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course students will be able to understand:

- The basic macroeconomic concepts such as inflation, unemployment, and economic growth
- Supply and demand
- The policy options of government and the Federal Reserve System
- How government and FED policy affect the economy
- The economic models used to study macroeconomics
- How to interpret and analyze economic news and current events
- See the interconnectedness of organizational components and external environment elements

Required Texts & Materials

All books are available at the campus bookstore and at Off Campus Books.

- *The Macro Economy Today* by Bradley Schiller, 11th edition.
- *Economics of Public Issues* by Miller, Benjamin, and North, 13th edition
- *Wall Street Journal*

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria:

- ♣ Multiple Choice Exam: 15% (Web-Ct)
- ♣ Short Answer Exam: 30% (October 27)
- ♣ Public Policy paper 25% (Due by 8 pm on December 15th)
- ♣ Quizzes- at home: 30% (Web-Ct) [20 points will be added to quiz total in lieu of dropping the lowest quiz grade]

ATTENDANCE during classes ten through fifteen is mandatory; the cost of missing one without a university excused absence is ONE LETTER GRADE. Participation and discussion will drive those classes. One exception will be granted, so use it wisely.

Bring picture identification to each exam.

Quizzes: You must take quizzes online through WebCT.

The quizzes are "open book." You may refer to the book and to lecture materials while you take the quizzes. There is no time limit, other than the due date, to take the each chapter quiz. Each quiz will close at 8:30 am of the class day after the material was presented. It is your responsibility to take the quizzes before the due date. Although the quizzes are open book and only consist of 30% of your grade, they are essential to your level of success in the class. There will be no review for the exams. Instead the multiple choice part of the exam material will come from the quizzes. The rest of the material will come from readings and the lectures. Missed quizzes cannot be made up or reviewed for the exam.

Paper

You are required to pick a topic of your interest related to a public policy issue/problem and write a 5 page paper/policy brief using economic principles and analysis. You are encouraged to write the article on an issue related to your organization if you work in the public sector/non-profit agencies or on a public policy area in which you plan to work in the future. You should think about potential topics and decide on one after consulting with me. You can meet me in my office hours or send me email. You are required to hand in a 1 page typed outline of your paper by the fourth class meeting which should address the following:

1. The topic of your paper
2. Importance of this topic
3. Key questions/issues you plan to address
4. Methodology
5. Sources of information/data
6. Bibliography

Students must submit a typed hard copy to the professor and an electronic copy to turnitin.com by due date.

Attendance: Students are expected to be diligent in the pursuit of

- their studies and regular in their attendance. Class attendance is not required (unless otherwise stated); however, failure to attend is done at your own risk. You are responsible for any announcements made or information given during class, no excuses will be accepted.
- The exams will be based on lecture material and required readings. Some of the lecture material will not be in the readings. (The professor will not provide copies of class notes).
 - The students should have carefully read the material at least once before class.
 - The Wall Street Journal is required reading and in class we will discuss issues pertinent to that week. Be aware that exams may contain questions from our classroom discussions.

ATTENDANCE during classes ten through fifteen is mandatory; the cost of missing one without a university excused absence is ONE LETTER GRADE. Participation and discussion will drive those classes.

Late Work:

Deadlines are clearly stated on the class calendar and there are no exceptions. Do not procrastinate. **WITH ADVANCE NOTICE (IF POSSIBLE) AND A UNIVERSITY EXCUSED ABSENCE, STUDENTS MAY TAKE A MAKE-UP EXAM.**

POLICY PAPERS are due by 8 pm on December 15th- the scheduled day of the Final. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Cell Phones: Due to receiving numerous complaints from students, this policy is necessary. If you allow your cell phone or beeper to audibly ring or beep in class, you will be penalized. The first time is a warning, after that you lose points. The penalty starts at two percentage points and will double every time thereafter. If you answer the phone, no warning will be granted and you will be immediately assessed the penalty.

WebCt: WebCt is used in this class. This is how I will communicate with you. You are responsible for announcements made through WebCt. Please select a forwarding address in your mail preferences if you do not regularly check your UTDallas email. WebCt is used in this class for quizzes, review and to check your progress in the class. If you do not have a computer at home or prefer to work on campus, you may do this at the library or in the many computer labs on campus. If you are unfamiliar with webct, go to the following website for directions: <http://webct.utdallas.edu> Webct is a technology based learning aid. Because of this, occasional, brief outages are possible. If, for whatever reason, you lose your connection during a quiz, do not panic. When you are able to log on again, continue with the quiz, even if webct states that you have exceeded the time limit. In these cases, your quiz will still be graded, unless you have passed the deadline and the quiz has closed. In general, it is strongly recommended that you do not wait until the last minute to take your quizzes. According to Murphy's law, problems occur when it would be least convenient. Procrastinate at your own risk.

Classroom Citizenship: I expect students to be attentive during class and to actively participate in group activities. You are expected to listen respectfully to me and to other students when speaking. Racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, ageism and other forms of bigotry are inappropriate to express in this class. We may discuss issues that require sensitivity and maturity. Disruptive students will be asked to leave and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Student Conduct and Discipline: The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and

Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity: The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use: The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class: The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend

the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures: Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grades: As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services: The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is: The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance. It is the student's responsibility to notify his

or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Resources to Help You Succeed: The university offers assistance to students in many areas. Please do not feel stigmatized by using these resources. Good students become better students by using them. Learning Resource Center offers a variety of programs to help you, ranging from individual tutoring to review classes for the GRE, GMAT, etc. They are located in MC2.402 and can be reached at 883-6707.

Religious Holy Days: The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated. The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment. If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities: Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change. Please feel free to contact me about any concerns you have about the course.

The Macro Economy Today by Bradley Schiller, 11th edition.

Class one (8/25) 1. Economics: The Core Issues 2. The U.S. Economy: A Global View	Class five (9/29) 9. Aggregate Spending 11. Fiscal Policy
Class two (9/8) 3. Supply and Demand 4. The Public Sector	Class six (10/6) 12. Deficits, Surpluses and Debt 13. Money and Banks
Class three (9/15) 5. National Income Accounting 6. Unemployment	Class seven (10/13) 14. The Federal Reserve System 15. Monetary Policy
Class four (9/22) 7. Inflation 8. The Business Cycle	Class eight (10/20) 20. International Trade 21. International Finance

EXAM- Class Nine- October 27th

Economics of Public Issues by Miller, Benjamin, and North, 13th edition

Class Ten/Eleven (11/3 & 11/10) Part One: The Foundations of Economic Analysis 1. Killer Airbags 2. Terrible Trade-Off 3. Flying the Friendly Skies? 4. The Costs of Terrorism Part Two: Supply and Demand 5. Sex, Booze, and Drugs 6. Is Water Different? 7. Slave Redemption in Sudan 8. Choice and Life 9. Smoking and Smuggling Part Three: Non-Price Rationing 10. Bankrupt Landlords, from Sea to Shining Sea 11. Rationing Health Care 12. The Effects of the Minimum Wage 13. Lights Out in California	Class Twelve/Thirteen (11/17 & 11/24) Part Four: Market Structures 14. The Internet Economy 15. Cartels 16. Price Discrimination 17. Keeping the Competition Out 18. The Perils of Product Differentiation Part Five: Political Economy 19. Killer Cars and the Rise of the SUV 20. Superfund Follies 21. Crime and Punishment 22. The Graying of America 23. The Economics of Weather Forecasting Part Six: Property Rights and the Environment 24. The Trashman Cometh 25. Bye, Bye, Bison 26. Smog Merchants 27. Greenhouse Economics
Class Fourteen/Fifteen (12/1 & 12/8) Part Seven: Global and Macroeconomic Affairs 28. The Opposition to Free Trade 29. The \$750,000 Job 30. The Euro 31. Money and Interest Rates 32. The Disappearing Surplus	

