



JOHN GLENN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PUBPOL&M 730/730N **Public Finance** **Winter 2007**

Instructor: Robert Greenbaum
310N Page Hall
292-9578
greenbaum.3@osu.edu

Assistant: Blair Russell
110L Page Hall
292-9343
russell.515@osu.edu

Credit hours: 5
730: TR: 2:30-4:18P
730N: TR: 5:30-7:18P
Room: Page Hall 10

Office Hours: TR 4:30-5:30 and by appointment

TA Hours: MW 4:00-5:00P and by appointment

Prerequisite: PPM 830, Econ 501A, or equivalent

Online course material: Available via Carmen at <http://www.carmen.osu.edu/>

Required Textbook:

Jonathan Gruber (2005), [*Public Finance and Public Policy*](#)

A copy of the text will be available in the student lounge for your use within Page Hall. Please be respectful of your classmates and remember that this is indented to be a public good.

Supplemental Materials

Textbook Power Point presentations, online quizzes, flashcards, and additional Internet references can be downloaded from <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/gruber/>

Course Objectives:

This course builds on the material learned in the microeconomics course, PPM 830, by applying microeconomic tools to the study of the role of the government's fiscal policies in a mixed economy. The course will first begin with an overview of the role of the public sector in the economy and then proceed with analysis and evaluation of revenue generation methods and expenditure programs. The course will examine in detail a number of the alternatives governments utilize to raise revenues. The course will also examine governmental expenditure programs, including more detailed consideration of programs through group projects.

Course Format:

Class sessions will combine lectures that focus on the relevant material from the textbook readings with student participation. Additional current topical readings will be assigned throughout the term. Some class time will be devoted to problem solving. Students are required to prepare for class discussions by reading the appropriate textbook and additional readings prior to each class. Class lecture notes will be available for download on Carmen by the morning of each class. If you miss a class, make sure that you get notes from a classmate.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Grades will be based on an in-class exam (30%), homework assignments (30%), a collaborative group project (30%), and class participation (10%). Students are expected to attend all classes and participate actively in class and online to get full class participation credit.

Students are reminded to obey all Ohio State rules regarding academic misconduct, which can be found at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.

Preliminary Course Outline

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Textbook Readings</u>	<u>Turn In</u>
1	4-Jan	Course overview	Gruber Ch 1	
2	9-Jan	Microeconomic tools review	Gruber Ch 2	
3	11-Jan	Externalities and government policy	Gruber Ch 5-6	
4	16-Jan	Public goods and cost benefit analysis	Gruber Ch 7-8	P.P. draft
5	18-Jan	Political Economy	Gruber Ch 9	
6	23-Jan	Fiscal Federalism	Gruber Ch 10	HW 1
7	25-Jan	Taxation	Gruber Ch 18	
8	30-Jan	Taxation efficiency, equity and incidence	Gruber Ch 19-20	
9	1-Feb	Taxes on labor, savings, wealth & corporations	Gruber Ch 21-24	HW 2
10	6-Feb	Tax reform	Gruber Ch 25	P.P. final
	8-Feb	Exam		
11	13-Feb	Education	Gruber Ch 11	
12	15-Feb	Social insurance & Social Security	Gruber Ch 12-14	
13	20-Feb	Health care	Gruber Ch 15-16	Term Paper
14	22-Feb	Income Inequality and Welfare Policy	Gruber Ch 17	
15	27-Feb	Group Debate: TBA*		
16	1-Mar	Group Debate: TBA*		
17	6-Mar	Group Debate: TBA*		
18	8-Mar	Group Debate: TBA*		
	13-Mar			HW 3

THIS MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST.
PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL'S OFFICE AT 292-8696 FOR ASSISTANCE.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THEIR NEEDS
KNOWN AND FOR SEEKING THE AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE IN A TIMELY MANNER.

*Some possible issues for the group projects:

- Business tax incentives (TIFs, abatements, subsidies, etc.)
- Education funding
- Health care reform
- Housing policy
- Lottery/Slots
- Pollution control
- Provision (or privatization) of a particular public service
- Streetcars for Columbus
- Social Security reform
- Public financing for stadiums
- Tax reform (income, property, sales, regional taxation, etc.)
- Welfare reform