

ECON 179 SYLLABUS (FALL 2000)
Foster, UCSD, September 23, 2000

Instructor

- Carroll B. Foster, Ph.D. (instructor) <cfoster@weber.ucsd.edu>
Regular hrs: MWF, 1-2:15 pm, ECON 110C Tel: 534-7133
- N. Lebedeva (TA) <nlebedev@weber.ucsd.edu> TH, 12-1 pm, SEQ 252

Course Information

- Schedule ID: Ec 179 Decisions in the Public Sector (389949).
- Daytime lecture: MWF, 9:05-9:55 am, CENTER 212
- Evening session: M, 7-8:50 pm, YORK 2622¹
- Description: public economics for Man. Sci. majors; covers welfare economics, public choice, bureaucracy, and program evaluation (CBA).
- Prerequisites: Econ 100A-B or Econ 170A-B.

Calendar

- Change grade option or drop w/o "W" thru F, 26 OCT
- Drop w/o "F" thru M, 27 NOV
- Holidays: F, 10 NOV (Veterans); TH-F, 23-24 NOV (Thanksgiving)
- Midterm: Monday, 6 NOV, 7-8:50 pm, YORK 2622
- Article review due: Wednesday, 29 NOV
- Final: Wednesday, 6 DEC, 8-11 am, CENTER 212 or _____

Books and Materials

- Boardman, et. al. (BGVW), *Cost-Benefit Analysis* [Bookstore]
- Stiglitz, *Economics of the Public Sector* (3^d ed.) [Bookstore]
- Foster, "Ec 179 Course Packet" [Soft Reserves]

Examinations and Grading

Midterm = 100 points, comprehensive final = 150 points, article review = 25 points. Exams are closed book and notes. Regrade period = 1 week after return. Final given on schedule ONLY.
Cheating = F + trip to your dean.

Gr	Points
A±	80-99%
B±	70-79
C±	59-69
D	53-58

Grade Scale

OUTLINE/READING

Topic Title	Stiglitz	BGVW
PSE PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMICS	Ch. 1-6	Ch. 1-2
PCB PUBLIC CHOICE & BUREAUCRACY	Ch. 7-9	
FF FISCAL FEDERALISM	Ch. 26	Ch. 4-5
MB MANAGEMENT & BUDGETING	Ch. 28	
CBA COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS	Ch. 11	Ch. 3, 7-8, 10-14
TE STATE/LOCAL TAX & EXPENDITURES	Ch. 27	

¹ Used for midterm and reviews; dates will be announced beforehand.

ARTICLE REVIEW

You are to review a scholarly (as opposed to magazine or newspaper) article on some public sector economic or management issue:

- Article must be in a SCHOLARLY journal;
- Article must be on a subject related to THIS COURSE;
- Your choice MUST BE APPROVED BY ME.

Where do you Start?

1. Go to the main or other library and pull a recent volume (since 1985) of one of the journals listed on the last page off the shelf. Skim the table of contents looking for something on a subject both related to this course and of interest to you.
2. Read the article's introduction and conclusion or summary. Then reread the whole thing. If you can't follow the technical details, see me (with a copy of the article in hand) or choose another article.
3. When you have chosen one or more articles, bring the article title, author, journal, and subject to me for approval. Once I approve the article, you may begin writing your review.

How do you Write a Review?

1. Use no cover sheet or binder of any kind. At the top of the first page:
Author name(s) -- last name first
"Article Title" (in quotation marks)
Journal Name, Volume number, date of publication, article page numbers
Econ 179 Article Review (Fall 2000)
Your Name and Student ID
2. Summarize the issue or questions being dealt with. Relate your summary to other subject material studied in this course.
3. Describe the authors' mode of analysis. What data were used (if any), and from what source? What type of mathematical modeling was employed? What statistical techniques (descriptive, correlation, regression, nonparametric) were used? Use diagrams if necessary.
4. What conclusions were reached?
5. What flaws in the analysis or conclusions do you feel were apparent? Cite evidence of the authors' political or other bias (if any).
6. Finish off with your own opinions, experience or ideas on the subject. This isn't a term paper; you can have fun.

Format of the Article Review

1. Typed or computer printed only; double-spaced with 1" margins all around.
2. About 3 pages long (2 minimum, 4 absolute maximum).
3. Stapled, but with NO cover page, binder, or folder.
4. Put short quotes in "quotation marks." Long quotes (more than 3 lines) should be indented right and left and single-spaced, or else avoided altogether (paraphrase instead).

Evaluation

You will be graded on formatting, grammar, spelling, syntax, organization, and quality of coverage. You lose 1/2 of the points if you turn the review in after the due date. Evidence of collaboration with other students costs you both all the points. So does plagiarism:

plagiarism n. 1. the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work.²

² Random House Dictionary of the English Language, College Edition, (New York: Random House, 1968).

LIST OF JOURNAL SOURCES

Most of these scholarly publications will have at least some articles on public sector decision making of one kind or another. BUT SEE ME WITH YOUR SPECIFIC ARTICLE FOR APPROVAL BEFORE YOU WRITE YOUR REVIEW.

American Economic Review
 American Political Science Review
 Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics
 Applied Economics
 Economic Inquiry
 Economics and Politics
 Fiscal Studies
 Internat. Journal of Social Economics
 Internat. Tax and Public Finance
 Journal of Conflict Resolution
 J. of Econ. Behavior and Organization
 J. of Economic Issues
 J. of Economic Perspectives
 J. of Human Resources
 J. of Law and Economics
 J. of Law, Economics and Organization
 J. of Policy Analysis and Management
 J. of Public Economics
 J. of Public Finance and Public Policy
 J. of Regional Analysis and Policy
 J. of Regional Science
 J. of Regulatory Economics
 J. of Socio-Economics
 Managerial and Decision Economics
 National Tax Journal
 Public Choice
 Public Budgeting and Finance
 Public Finance
 Social Choice and Welfare
 Urban Studies

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