

ECON 179 SYLLABUS (FALL 2003)

Foster, UCSD, 21-Sep-03

Instructor

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Regular Office Hours: MWF, 11-11⁵⁰ am, ECON 110C Telephone: 534-7133
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Course Information

- Schedule ID: 483399
- Lecture: MWF, 2-2⁵⁰ pm, CENTER 216
- Description: public economics for Management Science 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, 24 OCT
- Drop w/o "F" thru M, 1 DEC
- Holidays: T, 11 NOV (Veterans Day); ThF, 27-28 NOV (Thanksgiving)
- Article review due: Wednesday, 26 NOV in class
- Midterm: Wednesday, 5 NOV, in class
- Final: Wednesday, 10 DEC, 3-6 pm, CENTER 216 or _____

Books and Materials

- Stiglitz, *Economics of the Public Sector*, (3rd ed.) [Bookstore]
- Foster, "Ec 179 Course Packet" [Soft Reserves]

Examinations and Grading

Midterm = 50 points; comprehensive final = 150 points; article review = 25 points. Exams are closed book and notes. Re-grade period = 1 week after papers returned in class. Final given on schedule ONLY. Cheating = F + memo to dean.¹

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

OUTLINE/READING

PSE	PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMICS	Ch. 1-6
PCB	PUBLIC CHOICE & BUREAUCRACY	Ch. 7-9
FF	FISCAL FEDERALISM	Ch. 26
MB	MANAGEMENT & BUDGETING	Ch. 28
CBA	COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS	Ch. 11
T/E	STATE/LOCAL TAX & EXPENDITURE	Ch. 27

¹ I give multiple versions of tests. If you have the correct answers for some OTHER version, you will be accused of copying (cheating).

EC 179 - 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.¹

¹ 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