

ECON 155 -- SYLLABUS (SPRING 2007)

Foster, UCSD, April 29, 2008

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	Times	Room	Contact Info
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Instructor)	MWF, 11-12 n	ECON 110C	(858) 534-7133 cfoster@ucsd.edu
Emily Tang (TA/Article Review)	W, 2-4 pm	SEQ 237	yetang@econ.ucsd.edu

Course Information

- Course: Political Economics (591698) – MWF, 8-9 am, CENTER 222
- Description: Market failure; welfare economics and social choice; voting and political strategies; size and limitations of government.
- Prerequisite: Econ 109.
- Course webpage: <http://webct6web.ucsd.edu>.

Books and Materials

- D. C. Mueller, *Public Choice III*, Cambridge U. Press, 2003 **[Bookstore]**
- Lecture notes and other materials at course webpage at WebCT.

Calendar

- Change grade option or drop w/o “W” thru F, 27 APR; drop w/o “F” thru F, 1 JUN.
- Holidays: Monday, 28 MAY (Memorial Day).
- Article Review: Selection approved – F, 4 MAY; Paper due – F, 1 JUN
- Midterm: Wednesday, 9 MAY, in class.
- Final: Friday, 15 JUN, 8-11 am, CENTER 222 or _____.

Examinations and Grading

One midterm = 50 points; cumulative/comprehensive final = 150 points; article review = 25 points.¹ Exams are closed book/notes. Regrade period = 1 week after answer keys posted and/or papers returned. No rescheduled or make-up exams.² Cheating = F for the course.³

Grading	
Gr	Points
A±	90-99
B±	79-89
C±	51-78
D/F	00-50

COURSE OUTLINE/READING

TOPIC 1 – INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMICS	Ch. 1
TOPIC 2 – MARKET FAILURE	Ch. 2
TOPIC 3 – DISTRIBUTIONAL EQUITY	Ch. 3
TOPIC 4 – SOCIAL WELFARE FUNCTIONS	Ch. 23–27
TOPIC 5 – DIRECT DEMOCRACY & VOTING	Ch. 4–9
TOPIC 6 – REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY & FEDERALISM	Ch. 10–15
TOPIC 7 – GOVERNMENT FAILURE	Ch. 16, 20–22

¹ You MUST submit a review in order to pass this class.

² Please note that you MUST take the final exam with the rest of the class on schedule during finals week!

³ I often give multiple versions of tests. If you have the right answers for some other version, you are busted.

ARTICLE REVIEW

You are to review a scholarly (as opposed to magazine or newspaper) article on some subject related to political economy.

- Article must be in a SCHOLARLY journal.
- Article must be on a subject related to THIS COURSE.
- You each do a SEPARATE ARTICLE (two students may not review the same one)
- Your choice MUST BE APPROVED BY EMILY TANG.

Where do you start?

1. Go to the main library or online and find a recent volume (since 1990) of one of the journals listed on page 4 of this syllabus. 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 abstract, introduction and conclusion or summary. Then reread the whole thing. If you can't follow the technical details, see Emily (with a copy of the article in hand) or choose another article.
3. Choose a couple of articles and take the title, author, journal name, date of publication, and subject area to Emily for approval. Once she approves an 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:
 - Your Name and Student ID
 - Ec 155 Article Review (Spring 2007)
 - Author name(s) -- last name first
 - "Article Title" (in quotation marks)
 - *Journal Name*, date of publication, article page numbers
2. Summarize the issue or question(s) 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 sources? What type of mathematical modeling was employed (if any)? What statistical techniques (descriptive, correlation, regression, nonparametric) were used? Avoid diagrams if possible.
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. You may include your own opinions, experience or ideas on the subject, although they should not dominate your review.

Format of the Article Review

1. Typed or 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).
5. Citations are not necessary when you are referring to the article being reviewed. For other sources, use textnotes with a List of References at end [see **Sample** below].

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 late. Evidence of collaboration with other students costs you both all the points. So does plagiarism:

plagiarize v. 1. To steal and use (the ideas or writings of another) as one's own.⁴

SAMPLE

Ima Stoodint [ID = A12345678]
Ec 155 Article Review (Spring 2007)

Trout, Robert R., "Lying Under Oath," *American Journal of Political Ethics*, April 2007, 32-39.

Trout addresses the issue of the economic costs of misinformation introduced into the public domain by the egregiously self-serving lies of politicians, bureaucrats, lawyers, and economics professors testifying in court or before Congress. Trout's paper can be contrasted with the earlier work of C. Foster, who justified the use of lies, damned lies and statistics by the need for good CAPE evaluations [Foster (2005)].

Etc.

List of References

Foster, Carroll B., "Swearing, Cussing, Lewd Behavior and Temper Tantrums," *Quarterly Review of Useful Classroom Techniques*, February 2005, 1-506.

⁴ *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Houghton Mifflin, 1969.

LIST OF JOURNAL SOURCES

Most of these publications will have at least some articles on public sector decisions and political economy of one kind or another. BUT SEE EMILY 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