

ECON 179 -- SYLLABUS (WINTER 2007)

Foster, UCSD, April 28, 2008

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours

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Course Information

- Decisions in the Public Sector (579093) – MWF, 10-10⁵⁰ am, Ledden Aud. (HSS 2250)
- Description: Public finance for management science majors. Covers welfare economics, cost-benefit analysis, collective choice and voting, and public sector management. Emphasis is on state and local government.
- Prerequisite: Ec 100A-B or Ec 170A-B (intermediate microeconomics)
- Course webpage: <http://webct.ucsd.edu>

Books and Materials

- Fisher, R.C., *State & Local Public Finance*, 3rd ed., Thomson South-Western, 2007 [Bookstore]
- Foster, Ec 179 Course Packet [Course webpage]
- Computer and WebCT account slips [See me in class]

Calendar

- Drop w/o “W” thru Friday, 2 FEB; drop w/o “F” thru Friday, 9 MAR
- Holidays: Monday, 15 JAN (MLK Day); Monday, 19 FEB (Presidents’ Day)
- Midterm: Monday, 12 FEB, in class
- Final: Friday, 23 MAR, 8-11 am, Ledden Auditorium or _____

Examinations and Grading

Midterm = 50 points; cumulative final = 150. Exams are open book and notes. Regrade period = 1 week after papers returned. No rescheduled or make-up exams.¹ Cheating = F in course.²

Grade Scale

| Gr | Points |
|-----|--------|
| A± | 82-99% |
| B± | 74-81% |
| C± | 56-73% |
| D/F | 00-55% |

OUTLINE/READING LIST

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| TOPIC 1 – MARKET FAILURE & PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMICS | Ch. 1, 2 |
| TOPIC 2 – PUBLIC CHOICE & DEMOCRACY | Ch. 3 |
| TOPIC 3 – FISCAL FEDERALISM | Ch. 5, 6, 9 |
| TOPIC 4 – GOVERNMENT FAILURE | Ch. 4 |
| TOPIC 5 – MANAGEMENT & BUDGETING | Ch. 7, 8, 10, 11 |
| TOPIC 6 – COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS | My course notes |

¹ Please note that you MUST take the final with the rest of the class on schedule during finals week.

² I give multiple versions of tests. If you have the right answers for some other version, you are busted.