

University of California, San Diego  
Department of Economics  
Winter 2020

Professor Katherine Meckel  
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## **ECONOMICS 151: Public Econ, Expenditures I**

Overview of the public sector in the United States and the scope of government intervention in economic life. Theory of public goods and externalities. Discussion of specific expenditure programs such as education and national defense.

**Lectures:** Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-4:50 PM, Cognitive Science Building (CSB), Room 005

**Text:** Jonathan Gruber's Public Finance and Public Policy, 5th Edition.

**Website:** Class Materials on Canvas: Syllabus, Problem sets, and Answer keys

The audio from the lectures may be podcast and posted at <http://podcast.ucsd.edu> if technology permits.

**Pre-Requisites:** ECON 100C (Microeconomics C)

**Office Hours:** ECON 210, W: 3:00-4:30 PM

**Teaching Assistants:**  
Katherine Rittenhouse

**TA Discussion Section**  
Wednesday, 2:00-2:50 PM, CSB 004

The TA section is helpful for understanding how to solve the problem sets.

### **Grading:**

Homeworks (best 6/7):	20%
Midterm Exam 1:	20%
Midterm Exam 2:	20%
Final Exam:	40%

### **Homework:**

- All homework is due and must be turned in in class on **Thursday** or during the TA session on **Wednesday**
- Homework are graded as ✓ (100%), ✓- (75%), and 0 if not handed in. ✓ indicates “a serious attempt was made to solve all problems.” Note that there is a significant penalty for not turning any homework in.
- Students are encouraged to collaborate on problem sets, but everyone must write up his or her own answers.

- the lowest homework will be dropped

**Exams:**

- Exams are closed book with a mixture of short answer and multiple part analytical problems. The final is cumulative.  
- There will be no make-up exams. Please see UCSD policy regarding missing exams here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/operating-procedures/educational-policies/courses/epc-policies-on-courses/policy-exams-including-midterms-final-exams-and-religious-accommodations-for-exams/>

**Final Exam:** 3/17/2010 (Tuesday), 3 PM-6 PM. Room: TBA

**Administrative Issues:**

(1) Exams are closed book: you may not use any notes, books or consult other classmates. If you think you have missed points due to a grading error, you may submit a re-grade request. If you are correct, we will award you the missed points. However, if you are incorrect, you will lose  $\frac{1}{4}$  point per extra point requested. To help maintain the integrity of the midterms and finals, we will require you to show your student ID when turning in your exam.

(2) Any student found responsible for violating academic integrity will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition to the academic sanction that I impose, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty. For a review of UCSD policy, please see <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>.

(3) If you have a documented disability, please bring your documentation and come to talk to me as soon as possible so that I can make suitable accommodations for you. If you believe that you may have a disability and will desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities, Building 202 University Center

**Course Schedule**

Week	Topic	Reading (Gruber)	Homework
<b>Week 1</b>			
January 7	Introduction to US Public Sector	Chapter 1	
January 9	Theory of Public Finance	Chapter 2	#1, due 1/16
<b>Week 2</b>			
January 14	Theory of Public Finance	Chapter 2	
January 16	Theory of Public Finance	Chapter 2	#2, due 1/23
<b>Week 3</b>			
January 21	Empirical Tools	Chapter 3	
January 23	Empirical Tools	Chapter 3	#3, due 1/30

<b>Week 4</b>			
January 28	Externality Theory	Chapter 5	
January 30	Externality Theory	Chapter 5	
<b>Week 5</b>			
Feb 4	<b>Midterm #1</b>		
Feb 6	Externalities: Applications	Chapters 5& 6	#4, due 2/13
<b>Week 6</b>			
Feb 11	Externalities: Applications	Chapters 5 & 6	#5, due 2/20
Feb 13	Externalities: Applications	Chapters 5 & 6	
<b>Week 7</b>			
Feb 18	Theory of Public Goods	Chapter 7	
Feb 20	Theory of Public Goods	Chapter 7	
<b>Week 8</b>			
Feb 25	<b>Midterm #2</b>		
Feb 27	Theory of Public Goods	Chapter 7	#6, due 3/3
<b>Week 9</b>			
March 3	Public Goods: Applications	Chapter 7 & 11	
<b>March 5</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>		#7, due 3/12
<b>Week 10</b>			
March 10	Education	Chapter 11	
March 12	Education	Chapter 11	