Economics of Public Policy – Spring 2010 - Economics 3335-001
MWF 11:00 – 11:50
Room 239 Business Building
Instructor: Ronnie Liggett, MBA, CPA
Office: 318 Business Bldg.
Office Hrs: MWF 10-11am, W 11:50-12:20, and by appointment
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Mailing Address: Economics Dept., Box 19479, UTA, Arlington, TX 76019
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Material Required:
1. Text: The Economics of Public Issues, 16th Ed., Miller
2. Other Handouts As Announced.

Prerequisite: ECON 2306 or consent of instructor.

Course Description: Economic analysis of issues of general interest. A non-technical application of principles of economics to current topics such as abortion, crime, deficit spending, eating, education, energy issues, health care, immigration, politics, recycling, risk and safety, Social Security, sports, tax policy and others. The course also reviews the economic theories of regulation and the economic consequences of regulations and other public policies.

Class Goal: To learn the economic consequences of a variety of public policies and other economic and social issues and to consider the possible economic impact of alternative rules. A broad range of issues will be addressed to facilitate an understanding of the role of economics and its relationship to cultural development and social policies. In addition, class time will be spent discussing relevant current issues which arise, whether economic, social, or political.

Attendance: Roll may be taken at each class. Students are expected to attend and participate in discussions. A seating chart will be used. If you regularly miss class, I will assume that the class is not very important to you. In addition, there will be a significant amount of material provided through lecture notes during class. You are responsible for these lecture notes.

Class Format: Information will be provided through lectures, text material, and some handouts. Some class discussion will also take place. While controversial issues may sometimes be addressed, students are to show respect for fellow classmates at all times. Any behavior to the contrary will not be tolerated. NO Soap Boxes!

Testing: Test format will generally be a combination of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer. Students are expected to show some competency in organizing and presenting short answer material. In addition, some graphing will be required. Scantrons will be required – Form 882E.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading:</th>
<th>Tentative Dates</th>
<th>Chapters Expected To Be Covered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1 - 100 pts</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2 - 100</td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>8-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 3 - 100</td>
<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>15-16, 20-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 4 - 100 - FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>May 12 – 11am</td>
<td>24-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes – In Class – 50pts</td>
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<td>The above is in addition to lecture notes and / or other handouts, etc.</td>
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<td>Total Possible Points = 450</td>
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Grading Scale: A = 90-100%  B = 80-89%  C = 70-79%  D = 60-69%  F = 59% and below

Quizzes: 10 point “pop quizzes” may be given during the semester over lecture, notes, readings, etc. Approximately 8 quizzes should be expected. The three lowest scores will be dropped. NO MAKE-UPS FOR THESE QUIZZES!

Course Breakdown: The above is a tentative schedule of material for each test. This schedule is subject to change. In addition, outside material may be assigned and/or discussed in class. The student will be responsible for this material.

Extra Credit: Generally there is no formal extra credit. On occasion I might give a pop quiz or some other assignment as “extra credit.” These are unannounced and might occur at anytime. There is NO MAKE-UP should you miss these.

Disclaimer Regarding Syllabus: I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as the semester progresses. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

Make-up Exam Policy: All students are expected to take the tests at the assigned time (not early or late). If for some reason you must miss a test, you should notify me beforehand. Make-up tests are for extenuating circumstances only. If a make-up is approved by the instructor, it will be given AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER DURING THE WEEK BEFORE FINAL EXAMS AND MAY CONSIST OF ESSAY QUESTIONS.

Laptop Computer: Any laptops brought to class are to be used strictly for this class. I reserve the right to ask that laptops be turned off if there is any abuse in this area, i.e., surfing the web during class, shopping, e-mailing, etc.
Other Course Content and Objectives: In various ways, the course will incorporate use of the basic intellectual competencies, i.e. – reading, writing and expression, speaking, listening and absorption of ideas, and critical thinking. Additionally, on a smaller scale, some computer literacy may be beneficial in the research and acquisition of additional information for topic areas appealing to the student or assigned by the instructor. The course will also examine and critique economic systems as they pertain to public policy and the current social and political environment as well as the historical development of some of these policies with a focus on possible solutions to issues of concern.

Student Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to explain and discuss the course content as noted in the course and subject outline and demonstrate their knowledge of course material through examinations, quizzes, and class discussions

E-Mail: E-Mail is to be used for academic purposes. Do not use e-mail to forward jokes or political views. Any harassing or profane e-mail will be reported to campus authorities and subject to disciplinary action.

General Course Outline of Topics and Material:
Economic Growth / Basic Principles & Laws
2. Rich & Poor Nations

The Business Cycle / More Supply & Demand and Labor Markets
1. Understanding Employment & Recessions – Economic History, What is a Recession?
2. Scarcity – Water Use
3. Price Controls – Rent Control & Minimum Wage
4. Smoking & Smuggling
5. Immigration Issues

Fiscal Policy and Market Structures
1. Government Spending
3. National Debt Issues
4. Oil / OPEC Cartels
5. Mortgage Crisis

International Issues / The Environment / Crime
1. Economics of Crime & Punishment
2. International – Exa. The Opposition to Free Trade, Understanding Free Trade
3. The Environment – Exa. The Trashman and Bison, Greenhouse Economics and Smog
4. The Graying of America

Important Dates:
Jan 18 – MLK Holiday
Jan 19 – First Regular Class Day for UTA Students
Mar 15-19 – Spring Break
Apr 2 – Last Day for undergraduate Drops
Apr 12-16 – Business Week
May 7 – Last Class Day
May 10-14 – Final Exam Week

Grade Grievances: You have one calendar year from the date the grade is assigned to initiate any grievance. The normal academic channels are department chair, academic dean, and the Provost.

Drop Policy: The instructor is not responsible for dropping you from class if you quit attending! It is the student’s responsibility to complete the course or withdraw from the course in accordance with University Regulations. Students are strongly encouraged to verify their grade status before dropping a course after the first withdrawal date. A student who drops a course after the first withdrawal date may receive an "F" in the course if the student is failing at the time the course is dropped.

Students who have not paid by the census date and are dropped for non-payment who continues to attend the course will not receive a grade for the course. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (Regents Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

Americans with Disabilities Act: If a student requires an accommodation based on disability, the student should meet with the instructor in his/her office during the first week of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodation” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Food and Drink in Classrooms: College policy prohibits food and/or drinks in classrooms and labs. Anyone bringing food and/or drinks into a classroom or lab will be required to remove such items, as directed by the class instructor or lab supervisor.

Student Support Services: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Bomb Threats: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations and classes by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

Evacuation Procedure: In the event of an evacuation of the College of Business Building, when the fire alarm sounds, everyone must leave the building by the stairs. With the fire alarm system we now have, the elevators will all go to the first floor and stay there until the system is turned off.

EVACUATION FOR DISABLED PERSONS: Please go to the Northeast fire stairs. An evac track chair is located on the 6th floor stairwell. Employees trained in the use of this chair will go to the 6th floor and bring the chair to any lower floor stairwell to assist disabled persons.