

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

ECO383 - Public Finance

Summer 2022

- **Instructor and Contact**

Instructor: Kwanjai Yoo

Email: kwanjai.yoo@stonybrook.edu

Office Hours: Monday 10 am to 12 pm (EST) via zoom

Zoom Info: Meeting ID – 918 4132 2262 / passcode – 281142

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/91841322262?pwd=b1MwdUJpN1gyWllqVnpRcGUzT0lRQT09>

- **Prerequisites**

C or higher in ECO 303 (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory) and 305 (Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory)

- **Textbook and Material**

This course follows textbook strongly so textbook is required. Textbook is *Public Finance*, 10th edition by Harvey Rosen and Ted Gayer from McGraw Hill. Feel free to work with older editions but make the relevant material match up. Additional materials will be provided through blackboard if needed.

We are going to use Connect from McGraw Hill website which provides e-book access and online services. The detail information for Connect will be given on Blackboard.

- **Course delivery / modality**

This is a fully online class with **asynchronous** elements. All materials such as lecture notes, readings, tasks, and assignments will be available through Blackboard. See the “Technical requirements” section below for detailed information. The official time zone is **EST, Eastern Standard Time**. Please make sure that all deadlines will be indicated using EST.

- **Communication**

You have several options to reach out to the instructor for help with the course material. If you are facing any difficulties with the course, do not delay seeking help.

1. You can post questions on the Blackboard discussion board. The benefit of this is that all your classmates can see your questions and answer them. You are highly encouraged to participate in the online discussion. For questions on the weekly material, go to the corresponding week’s forum. For general questions, you should post your question in the general forum. Instructor will monitor the discussion board regularly.
2. You can visit instructor office hours every Monday via zoom. To avoid multiple students coming at the same time, every office hour splits into 8 number of 15-min sessions. The schedule sheet is uploaded on the Blackboard so that you can write your name in one slot for every week. For students who have time conflicts with office hours, you can email me to set up an appointment other than regular office hours.

3. You can email instructor. Please explicitly write your full name, course number and title in the email in a polite manner. Note that email will take more time to get response than discussion board, so I recommend discussion board first. Please allow up to 48 hours for reply.

Your Stony Brook University email must be used for all University-related communications. You must have an active Stony Brook University email account and access to the Internet. All instructor correspondence will be sent to your SBU email account. Regular announcements will be sent from Blackboard. These will be posted in the course site and may or may not be sent by email.

Course Information and Assessment

- **Course description**

In this course, you will learn followings: theories of taxation and the satisfaction of public wants; the nature of public goods; theory of public expenditure; effects of taxes on resource allocation and welfare; theories of tax incidence; fiscal and equity implications of alternative tax schemes; fiscal dynamics and growth; intergovernmental fiscal relations.

You will learn about various elements of public finance in general. Specifically, this course will answer to the following questions:

- What is public finance about and for?
- How are tax scheme designed?
- How are theories of taxation implemented in practice?
- How does the government spend the tax revenue?

For detailed information about topics to be covered, please refer to the course schedule below.

- **Course Objectives**

Students completing this course should be able to

1. analyze budgets of different levels of public administration
2. evaluate government's policies on a basis of people's welfare
3. develop a potential public policy in a given circumstance
4. explore the evidence about inequality and poverty
5. distinguish potential effects of various public insurance

- **Students' responsibilities**

You will find the weekly learning modules on the Blackboard, and each module contains slides, tasks, and assignments. You are required to follow the module every week and complete all tasks in the corresponding folder by the deadline. The tasks will include:

1. reading the relevant materials such as textbook or additional slides if posted on the learning module.
2. following the learning modules every week

- submitting assignments on deadline (every Tuesday)

You are required to check Blackboard at least twice per week for posted announcements.

- Grading**

Your final letter grade will be based on your overall percentage grade determined as follows.

10%: Learning module tasks

40%: Assignments (10% for each assignment * 4)

25%: Midterm exam

25%: Final exam

Please refer to the exam format section below for details about exams.

- Exams**

The midterm and final exams will take place online through Blackboard. There are several points you should keep in mind.

- Exams will be uploaded on Blackboard at noon on the exam date in EST and deadline is 24 hours after since the beginning.

(Midterm: 12 PM July 26th ~ 12 PM July 27th / Final: 12 PM August 16th ~ 12 PM August 17th)

- You will be unable to take the test after the due date.
- Once you start an exam, you will have **120 minutes (2 hours)** to complete the exam.
- You must finish the exam in one sitting. You cannot pause or sign out and restart the exam.
- After the duration, your work will be submitted automatically.
- You will have only one attempt unless you are disconnected from the exam due to internet connectivity or other technical issues.
- Make sure you document the problems you face (photos or screenshots showing disconnection with current time) and send an email to the instructor immediately as you see the issue. Then, you can start your second attempt. Without any proof of disconnection, the second attempt would not be considered.

The tests are completed individually, and you are not allowed to collaborate with anyone. If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, you will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office with a recommendation for fail for the class.

- Course schedule**

	Topic	Chapter	Note
Week 1	Introduction / Tools of Normative Analysis	1, 3, 8	HW 1 (7/12)
Week 2	Public Goods and Externalities	4, 5, 7	HW 2 (7/19)
Week 3	Social Insurance and Income Maintenance	9, 10, 11, 12, 13	Midterm (7/26)
Week 4	Framework for Tax Analysis	14, 15, 16	HW 3 (8/2)
Week 5	The United States Revenue System	17, 18, 19	HW 4 (8/9)
Week 6	Deficit Finance and Tax Reform	20, 21	Final (8/16)

Technical Requirements

This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades. The Blackboard course site can be accessed at <https://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>. If you are unsure of your NetID, visit <https://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/finding-your-netid-and-password>.

CELT has provided the following guidance in terms of a minimum recommended computer set-up and the software packages you will need to have access to, and be able to use:

- PC with Windows 10 or higher / Mac with OS 10.11 or higher
- A stable Internet connection, especially for the exams.
- Intel Core i5 or higher / Apple silicon processor equivalent to Intel Core i5 or higher
- 8GB RAM
- Latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Safari for MacOS or Edge for Windows (A complete list of supported browsers and operating systems can be found on the My Institution page when you log in to Blackboard)
- Word processing software (Microsoft Word, Pages, etc.)
- Ability to download and install free software applications and plug-ins (note: you must have administrator access to install applications and plug-ins).

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Blackboard, you can:

- create a ticket to get help on the website <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/itsm>
- Call (631) 632-9800 for client support, Wi-Fi, software, and hardware

Academic Policies

- **Student Accessibility Support Center (SASC)**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, Stony Brook Union Suite 107, (631) 632-6748, or at sasc@stonybrook.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

- **Academic integrity**

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Professions, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

- **Critical incident management**

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

- **Course materials and copyright statement**

Course material accessed from Blackboard, SB Connect, SB Capture or a Stony Brook Course website is for the exclusive use of students who are currently enrolled in the course. Content from these systems cannot be reused or distributed without written permission of the instructor and/or the copyright holder. Duplication of materials protected by copyright, without permission of the copyright holder is a violation of the Federal copyright law, as well as a violation of Stony Brook's Academic Integrity and [Student Conduct Codes](#).

- **Communication competency**

You are expected to follow certain rules in your written communications through email and on the discussion board on Blackboard. Always make sure you state your name and surname (except for anonymous posts on the Comments and Feedback Discussion Forum). Make every effort to use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation and avoid using all capital letters in your posts and emails. ***Most importantly, make sure your posts are polite and respectful. Abusive language will not be tolerated.***