

## **PAD 5311: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS**

Undergraduate Learning Center 336  
Thursdays, 6pm to 8:50pm

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CRN: 12410  
Term: Fall 2019  
Office Hours: By Appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Economic Analysis for Public Administrators is a graduate level course designed to introduce students to the use of economic theories and methods for public policy analysis. Microeconomic and Macroeconomic concepts provide the primary theoretical framework for the course. A variety of public policy topics are covered in the course such as pollution, crime, education, poverty, price and output controls, monopolies, public goods, and government spending and intervention. The role of economics in the decision-making process is examined.

### **UTEP EDGE**

This course will help you develop the following UTEP Edge skills: (1) *critical thinking* through the comprehension of difficult readings and the analysis of economic data; (2) *communication* through classroom discussions and the projects; (3) *problem-solving* through the use of economic concepts and theories in evaluating difficult public policy issues; and (4) *social responsibility* through an appreciation of how economics influences controversial social policies.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course has two primary objectives: (1) to provide you with an understanding of economic theories and analyses, and (2) to help you increase your critical thinking, analytical, and problem solving skills.

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- *Understand* basic economic concepts;
- *Interpret* economic data and graphs;
- *Apply* economic theories and analyses to public policy issues;
- *Analyze* government intervention and its impact on the economy; and
- *Appreciate* the role of economics in policy decision-making.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Register, C., & Grimes, P. (2015). *Economics of Social Issues* (21st ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0078021916.

Wheelan, C. (2019). *Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co. ISBN-13: 978-0393356496.

Additional *required* readings will be made available on the Blackboard course site, which may be accessed at <https://my.utep.edu/>.

## ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Your grade will be based upon the following assignments:

Assessment	Percent of Grade
Class Participation	20%
Project #1	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Project #2	15%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### CLASS PARTICIPATION

Attendance will be taken each class. Missing class will adversely affect your final grade. Students are expected to be on time. Students are also expected to be prepared for, and to participate during, each class. As such, reading assignments must be completed *prior* to class. Contributions to the class discussion are expected and should be germane to the topic at hand. Students should strive to provide meaningful and insightful contributions to the class discussion.

### MIDTERM EXAM

The midterm exam will take place on **Thursday, October 10th**. The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Specific information regarding the midterm exam will be provided as we progress through the course.

### PROJECTS

Students will be required to complete two projects in this course. Project #1 is due on **Thursday, September 19th** at the beginning of class. Project #2 is due on **Thursday, November 7th** at the beginning of class. *Late submissions will not be accepted*. The two projects will involve a short paper analyzing how economics impacts and influences a specified area of public policy. More information regarding the two projects, including the grading rubric, will be provided as we progress through the course.

### FINAL EXAM

The final exam will take place on **Thursday, December 12th, 7:00 pm - 9:45 pm**. Like the midterm exam, the final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Specific information regarding the final exam will be provided as we progress through the course.

### QUALITY OF WORK

You are expected to produce quality work. Quality work requires being prepared and encompasses both substance and presentation (style, organization, grammar, etc.). Poor presentation distracts from what it is you are trying to communicate. Producing quality work requires more than a minimum effort. In all cases, quality trumps quantity.

## COURSE POLICIES

### CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

I will strive to provide a classroom environment appropriate for academic instruction and discussion. For this to occur, make sure you read the assignments, as scheduled; *silence cell phones*; and *arrive on time*. We will welcome and encourage different ideas and viewpoints. Some topics are controversial and students should feel comfortable expressing their thoughts. We will respect what others have to say – we do not have to agree with them – and avoid personal insult, interrupting, and rudeness. We will avoid becoming politically charged when discussing sensitive topics. Lastly, you may not use computers and cell phones during class.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations, you should contact UTEP's Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) or stop by Union Building East Room 106.

### WITHDRAWAL POLICY

To be withdrawn from the class, students must take appropriate actions on or before UTEP's deadlines. Automatic withdrawals will not be made by the instructor. A student may officially withdraw from this class with an automatic 'W' at any time **before November 1, 2019**. According to UTEP policy, no withdrawals will be allowed after this date. You will receive a failing grade if you simply stop coming to class and do not take appropriate actions to withdraw from the course.

## SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

### **Scholastic Dishonesty will not be tolerated.**

I am required by the Handbook of Operating Procedures for The University of Texas at El Paso to report "all alleged acts of scholastic dishonesty...to the Dean of Students for disposition." (See Section III of the Handbook of Operating Procedures for UTEP (Academic Policies and Faculty Personnel Matters 4.14a.))

As stated in Section II of the Handbook of Operating Procedures for UTEP (Student Conduct and Discipline 1.2.2.1): "Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. 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."

Please refer to UTEP's Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>. You should read the *Avoiding Plagiarism* handout available on their site. The handout will also be available on the Blackboard site for this course.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule of assignments. You are required to complete the assigned readings before class. *I reserve the right to alter this schedule as needed.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings and Assignments</b>
Aug. 29	<i>Thinking Like an Economist and Development Economics</i>	Ch. 1 in Register & Grimes Ch. 13 in Wheelan
Sept. 5	<i>Economic Systems, Markets and Incentives</i>	Ch. 2 in Register & Grimes Ch. 1 & Ch. 2 in Wheelan
Sept. 12	<i>Governmental Controls and Pollution</i>	Chs. 3 & 4 in Register & Grimes Ch. 3 in Wheelan
Sept. 19	<i>Crime and Education</i> <b>Project #1 Due</b>	Chs. 5 & 6 in Register & Grimes Ch. 4 in Wheelan
Sept. 26	<i>The Economics of Poverty and Prosperity</i>	Ch. 7 in Register & Grimes Ch. 9 in Wheelan
Oct. 3	<i>Monopolies and Information</i>	Ch. 8 in Register & Grimes Ch. 5 in Wheelan
Oct. 10	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Oct. 17	<i>Professional Sports</i>	Ch. 9 in Register & Grimes Ch. 6 in Wheelan
Oct. 24	<i>The Global Marketplace</i>	Ch. 10 in Register & Grimes Ch. 11 & Ch. 12 in Wheelan
Oct. 31	<i>Economic Growth</i>	Ch. 11 in Register & Grimes Ch. 8 in Wheelan
Nov. 7	<i>Financial Systems and Financial Markets</i> <b>Project #2 Due</b>	Ch. 12 in Register & Grimes Ch. 7 in Wheelan
Nov. 14	<i>Unemployment and Inflation</i>	Ch. 13 in Register & Grimes Great Recession article (Blackboard)
Nov. 21	<i>Government Spending</i>	Ch. 14 in Register & Grimes Ch. 10 in Wheelan
Nov. 28	<b>Thanksgiving – No Class</b>	
Dec. 5	<i>Social Security and Medicare</i>	Ch. 15 in Register & Grimes Yasar article (Blackboard)
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>Final Exam (7:00 pm – 9:45 pm)</b>	

## **SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER**

This syllabus provides an outline of what will be covered in this course. It will be followed to the extent possible in meeting the instructional goals and needs of the course. This syllabus is not, and should not be interpreted as, a contract. It is to be used as a tentative guideline, subject to change according to the needs and interests of the class. *I reserve the right to alter this syllabus as needed.*