

ECONOMIC PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES  
PROFESSOR SEIDMAN  
BEPP 201/770 FALL 2012

This course provides an economic analysis of the following public policy issues: government deficits and debt, environmental pollution, social security, health insurance, taxation, state and local government, education, and low-income assistance. The required textbook is Laurence Seidman, *Public Finance* (McGraw-Hill). There will also be required articles (cited under homework assignments on the reverse side of this sheet). The grade will be based on three exams (20% each), a final exam (30%), and homework plus attendance (10%). The exams will test the material discussed in class, the assigned reading, and the homework assignments. The final exam will test the entire course. There is a two-page written homework assignment for each class (see homework assignments on the reverse side of this sheet). Office (1453 SHDH) Hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9:00–12:00, 3:00–4:00; to arrange another time just e-mail me at [seidman@udel.edu](mailto:seidman@udel.edu), or ask me at the end of a class.

| <u>Monday</u>                     | <u>Wednesday</u>                    |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Sep</b>                        | 5 Ch 13 Government Borrowing        |
| 10 Ch 13 Government Borrowing     | 12 Ch 13 Government Borrowing       |
| 17 Ch 1 (p1-10), Ch 2 Environment | 19 Ch 2 Environment                 |
| 24 Ch 2 Environment               | <b>26 FIRST EXAM (See ** below)</b> |
| <b>Oct</b>                        |                                     |
| 1 Ch 5 Social Security            | 3 Ch 5 Social Security              |
| 8 Ch 5 Social Security            | 10 Ch 6 Health Insurance            |
| 15 Ch 6 Health Insurance          | 17 Ch 6 Health Insurance            |
| <b>22 NO CLASS: FALL BREAK</b>    | <b>24 SECOND EXAM</b>               |
| 29 Ch 7 Tax Incidence             | 31 Ch 7 Tax Inefficiency            |
| <b>Nov</b>                        |                                     |
| 5 Ch 8 Income Taxes               | 7 Ch 8 Income Taxes                 |
|                                   |                                     |
| 12 Ch 9 Consumption Taxes         | 14 Ch 9 Consumption Taxes           |
| <b>19 THIRD EXAM</b>              | 21 Ch 10 State and Local Government |
| 26 Ch 11 Education                | 28 Ch 11 Education                  |
| <b>Dec</b>                        |                                     |
| 3 Ch 12 Low-Income Assistance     | 5 Ch 12 Low-Income Assistance       |

**FINAL EXAM**

**\*\* If you are observing a religious holiday on Wed Sep 26, you can take the first exam any time Fri Sep 28 or Mon Oct 1. Just e-mail me in advance.**

**Procedure to obtain an excused absence:** E-mail me, briefly giving the reason for your absence. I will reply, letting you know whether I have given you an excused absence.

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**WRITTEN HOMEWORK**

Please **print** your **name** (first name, then last name) and the **due date** at the top of each homework. For each day's homework, write **two pages (or both sides of a single page); your homework can be typed or handwritten.** Each homework will receive either "credit" (a check mark) or "no credit (X)." If you receive an X, redo it. Some homework questions will be on the exams. Each homework consists of answering questions from the end of the chapter in the text or writing about the assigned articles.

**DUE DATE AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

**Sep**

- 5 None (First Day of Class)
- 10 Ch 13: 2-5, 7-8.
- 12 Buchanan, Seidman (Economists' Voice), Taylor, Lewis/Seidman
- 17 Ch 1: 1, 5; Ch 2: 1-4
- 19 Ch 2: 5-9, Metcalf
- 24 Ch 2: 10-13, Stavins
- 26 None (First Exam)

**Oct**

- 1 Ch 5: 1-8
- 3 Ch 5: 9-10, Diamond/Orszag
- 8 Ch 5: 11-14, Feldstein
- 10 Ch 6: 1-6, Anderson/Reinhardt
- 15 Ch 6: 7-14, Cogan/Hubbard/Kessler, Affordable Care Act, Affordable Care Act II
- 17 Premium Support; Medicare for All (Intriligator vs Ferrara)
- 22 None (No Class: Fall Break)
- 24 None (Second Exam)
- 29 Ch 7: 1-4
- 31 Ch 7: 7-10, 13, Feldstein

**Nov**

- 5 Ch 8: 1-4, 8
- 7 Ch 8: 9, 11-12, 14, Seidman
- 12 Ch 9: 2-5, Hines
- 14 Ch 9: 6-9
- 19 None (Third Exam)
- 21 Ch 10: 1-7, 12-14, Inman
- 26 Ch 11: 2-5
- 28 Ch 11: 10-13

**Dec**

- 3 Ch 12: 2-5
- 5 Ch 12: 6-9