Public Policy 330.001
Microeconomics for Public Policy – Standard Section
Ford School of Public Policy
Fall 2023

Instructor: Yusuf Neggers (yneggers@umich.edu)
>   Office hours: Tuesdays 4-6pm, Weill 4216 (or zoom by request), sign up with Google calendar

GSI: Abbie Barondess (barondea@umich.edu)
>   Office hours: Wednesdays 3-4pm, Fridays 10-11am, Weill 3202 (or zoom by request), sign up with Google calendar

Class Meetings:
- Lecture: Tuesdays/Thursdays 2:30 – 3:50pm in 1110 Weill (Betty Ford)
- Section: Fridays 9 – 9:50am in 1110 Weill (Betty Ford)

Canvas Website - official course website where assignments are submitted

Master Schedule - updated in real time with reading assignments, links to slides, and due dates

Course Description: The main goal of this course is to practice and strengthen your ability to apply microeconomics to public policy issues. We will build on concepts and skills introduced in Econ 101 and focus on real-world applications to answer the question: "What can economists contribute to our understanding of major policy debates?"

To this end, learning objectives include:
- Students should understand the main microeconomic justifications for public policy, including theories of market failure and redistributive goals, and they should understand the main mechanisms for financing government.
- Students should be able to identify and apply appropriate microeconomic models and analytical techniques for a given policy context. This involves careful attention to key model assumptions and limitations and the ability to manipulate models to evaluate and compare policy options.
- Students should be familiar with the types of data and analysis commonly found in empirical microeconomic research on policy issues.

Course Format: Course material will be presented primarily through in-person lecture sessions, which will also be recorded via lecture capture and posted on Canvas. The GSI-led section will be used for a number of purposes that will vary week-to-week, including: reviewing material from lecture, going through additional examples or practice problems, group work, consultations, etc.

Texts and Readings: Our main, required text will be *Public Finance and Public Policy* (7th edition) by Jonathan Gruber. Reading assignments from the main text and other supplemental sources will be posted on the master schedule.

Grading and Assignments: (Detailed assignments and due dates will be posted on Canvas)

- Problem sets (4)—15% of total grade
  Problem sets will be graded based on effort and completeness. Students are encouraged to work together on problem sets, though every student must submit their own work.

- Quizzes (4)—30% of total grade
  Students will complete four in-class quizzes throughout the semester. The grade will be calculated based on the three highest scores, with the lowest score dropped.

- Final exam (in person)—30% of total grade

- Policy memos (2)—20% of total grade
  Students will take policy topics of their choice and explain them through the lens of economic concepts covered in class, with a policymaker audience in mind.

- Class Participation—5% of total grade
  Students will have many opportunities to interact, participate, and engage both during and outside of class. Students should keep a record of their participation activities during the semester, and participation information will be collected via survey and evaluated at the end of the semester.

Other Course Policies:

- Assignment grades are calculated as percentages and weighted as described above to calculate final grades. Final grades may be curved upward by the instructor, with the initial uncurved grade scale for final grades being:

Minimum %	Letter
94.0	A
90.0	A-
87.0	B+
84.0	B
80.0	B-
77.0	C+
74.0	C
70.0	C-
< 70.0	Failing grade

- Late work:
  - Unless a prior agreement is reached, late problem sets and memos will incur a penalty of 10% of the possible points per day.
  - Problem sets will not be accepted more than two days late (i.e., 20% grade penalty), so that answer keys can be made available without delay. Problem sets still missing after three days will be assigned a score of zero.
  - Quizzes – missed quizzes will be assigned a score of zero.

- Use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) – If you use GenAI tools for any of your work for this class, it must be appropriately cited and documented in an appendix. For this class, I consider failure to follow these guidelines a violation of Academic Integrity (see below). For instructions on how to cite GenAI, please see this APA article. In addition, any time you use GenAI (whether explicitly citing it or not), you should include an appendix to your document that includes the following:
  - Date, time, and tool used (e.g., ChatGPT, August 28, 2023 at 10:00am ET)
  - Any original question prompt(s) that you input into the tool
  - Any original text generated by the tool
  - A thorough explanation of how you used, modified, and/or verified the AI-generated text. You should verify all citations in the AI-generated text by checking the original sources.

- Please let me know immediately if you have a disability, health issue, conflict, outside responsibility (including caregiving or paid work), or other circumstances that might

inhibit you from attending class in-person, meeting due dates, or otherwise participating in the class. I will work with you to make appropriate accommodations.

- No extra credit will be available.

SCHOOL-WIDE POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Ford School Inclusivity Statement: Members of the Ford School community represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. We are committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- share their unique experiences, values and beliefs
- be open to the views of others
- honor the uniqueness of their colleagues
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community
- value one another's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature
- use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in Ford classes and across the UM community

Ford School Public Health Protection Policy: In order to participate in any in-person aspects of this course--including meeting with other students to study or work on a team project--you must follow all the public health safety measures and policies put in place by the State of Michigan, Washtenaw County, the University of Michigan, and the Ford School. Up to date information on U-M policies can be found here. It is expected that you will protect and enhance the health of everyone in the Ford School community by staying home and following self-isolation guidelines if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19

Student Mental Health and Wellbeing: The University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. We acknowledge that a variety of issues, both those relating to the pandemic and other issues such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, and depression, can directly impact students' academic performance and overall wellbeing. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available.

You may access the Ford School's embedded counselor Paige Ziegler (pziegler@umich.edu) and/or counselors and urgent services at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and/or University Health Service (UHS). Students may also use the Crisis Text Line (text

'4UMICH' to 741741) to be connected to a trained crisis volunteer. You can find additional resources both on and off campus through the University Health Service and through CAPS.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The University of Michigan recognizes disability as an integral part of diversity and is committed to creating an inclusive and equitable educational environment for students with disabilities. Students who are experiencing a disability-related barrier should contact Services for Students with Disabilities https://ssd.umich.edu/; 734-763-3000 or ssdoffice@umich.edu. For students who are connected with SSD, accommodation requests can be made in Accommodate. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your SSD Coordinator or visit SSD's Current Student webpage. SSD considers aspects of the course design, course learning objects and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SSD, instructors, and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Academic Integrity: The Ford School academic community, like all communities, functions best when its members treat one another with honesty, fairness, respect, and trust. We hold all members of our community to high standards of scholarship and integrity. To accomplish its mission of providing an optimal educational environment and developing leaders of society, the Ford School promotes the assumption of personal responsibility and integrity and prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty, plagiarism and misconduct. Academic dishonesty may be understood as any action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community. Plagiarism involves representing the words, ideas, or work of others as one's own in writing or presentations, and failing to give full and proper credit to the original source. Conduct, without regard to motive, that violates the academic integrity and ethical standards will result in serious consequences and disciplinary action. The Ford School's policy of academic integrity can be found in the MPP, BA, and PhD Program handbooks. Additional information regarding academic dishonesty, plagiarism and misconduct and their consequences is available here.

Use of Technology: Students should follow instructions from their instructor as to acceptable use of technology in the classroom, including laptops, in each course. All course materials (including slides, assignments, handouts, pre-recorded lectures or recordings of class) are to be considered confidential material and are not to be shared in full or part with anyone outside of the course participants. Likewise, your own personal recording (audio or video) of your classes or office hour sessions is allowed only with the express written permission of your instructor. If you wish to post course materials or photographs/videos of classmates or your instructor to third-party sites (e.g. social media), you must first have informed consent. ***Without explicit permission from the instructor and in some cases your classmates, the public distribution or posting of any photos, audio/video recordings or pre-recordings from class, discussion section***

or office hours, even if you have permission to record, is not allowed and could be considered academic misconduct.

Please review additional information and policies regarding academic expectations and resources at the Ford School of Public Policy at: https://intranet.fordschool.umich.edu/academic-expectations