

ECONOMICS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR, ECON 4211-001
Department of Economics, University of Colorado
Spring 2009

use the material and a significant part of the exams will closely follow their format.

In addition, there are many questions at the end of each chapter in the textbook. I encourage you to do these questions and I hope to post the answers for your use.

Attendance at class:

Woody Allen once remarked: "90% of life is just turning up". The best way to learn the material is to attend class. Reading the lecture notes posted on the web is not a good substitute for attendance. Attendance at class is expected and required.

Grading:

There will be a paper, a midterm exam and a final exam. The student's grade (before any adjustment for non-attendance) will be determined as: 45% Midterm, 45% Final and 10% Paper.

Non-attendance at class will be reflected in your grade. Your final score - calculated as explained above under "Grading" - is out of 100 points. For each absence from class after your third absence, your score will be reduced by .5 point. For example, your score from the exams and paper is 76 (out of 100) and in total you missed 6 classes. Your final score which I will use to calculate your grade is $76 - 3(.5) = 74.5$.

Paper timeliness:

It is important that the paper is handed in on the date due (to be announced). If the paper is not handed in by the date due, your course score will be lowered 5% . If the paper is not handed in by the day of the exam, *you will be graded Fail*. If you subsequently hand in the paper within 6 months of the final, your grade will be changed to the grade earned in the midterm, the final and the paper. If you do not subsequently hand in the paper within 6 months of the final, your grade will nifici07 Tw(paper il.

Administrative Drop:

Because attendance is important and is expected, I will drop from the class any student who neither attends one the first three classes of the term nor gets special permission from me for his/her absence.

Exams:

Because this is an advanced course, there is only one midterm. The midterm and final will be given as:

MIDTERM: Monday 2 March 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm.
in HLMS 252

FINAL: Tuesday 5 May 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
in ECON 119

You must bring a blue-book to each exam.

Failure to be present at an exam:

If you fail to be present at an exam (unless you are ill and have a medical note from your doctor or unless, before the exam, I have granted you permission to take a make-up exam), you will score 0 in the exam.

Classroom courtesy:

Please turn your cell 'phone off prior to the start of class.

If you fail inropules, mi ce classpuandsam

disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at (303) 492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at (303) 492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Religious Observances

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

Date

Topic

Chapter

1. INTRODUCTION

Problem Set: Why the lights don't get turned off after class.
Problem Set: Non-excludable public good.
Problem Set: Excludable public good.

4. GOVERNMENT FAILURE: PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING

13,16,18,20,23,25 Feb PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING

Normative: Benefit-cost analysis

8

Positive:

6

Informed voters:

- majority voting - median voter theorem.
- cycling.
- Arrow impossibility theorem.

Problem Set: Pareto-criterion and Benefit-Cost Analysis.

Problem Set: Voting

Problem Set: Cycling.

27 Feb

Review

4. INCOME REDISTRIBUTION

5 May

FINAL EXAM (7:30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. in ECON 119)