UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS
Department of Public Administration
Fall 2016

PADM 5700.004 (MPA)/6710.004 (PhD)                   Dr. Robert Bland
Advanced Public Finance Theory                               bbland@unt.edu
Tuesday 6:00 - 8:50 pm                                     2016 PASA “Professor of the Year”

SYLLABUS

TEXTS


Additional readings are available on Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This advanced seminar is designed for doctoral students interested in specializing in public financial management and for advanced MPA students interested in the theoretical foundations of public finance. The course is organized around the five major subfields in public finance: (1) public finance theory; (2) fiscal federalism and TELs; (3) theories of budgeting; (4) tax policy and economic development; and (5) debt and treasury management. Students are expected to master a basic understanding of the theories and research contributions in these subfields. Class meetings will involve discussing the contributions from the assigned readings to the intellectual heritage of public finance.

It is advisable that students have completed both PADM 5400 and PADM 5420 or their equivalent prior to enrolling in this advanced seminar. This course is a precursor to the directed readings courses (PADM 6940) that doctoral students complete in preparation for their field exam.
**COURSE TASKS**

This is not a lecture class. As a doctoral seminar, members of the class will take a leading role in class discussions. Each week, class members should come prepared (1) with a summary (maximum 2 pages) of the readings to share electronically with the class, and (2) to participate in the discussion on the topic.

At the end of each unit, class participants will prepare a summary (8-10 pages) of the literature for that unit that discusses (a) important theories in the readings (MPA students discuss one theory; PhD students discuss two theories), (b) for each theory, identify two research articles from any refereed journal or anthology that empirically test the theory (a total of 4 articles for PhD students, 2 articles for MPA students), and (c) discuss the key questions or hypotheses, research design, and findings of each article. A case study, where appropriate, may be substituted for one of the two research articles. Additional assignments may be made during the semester as student interests and topics vary.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

The readings from outside the required texts are available on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Basics of Public Finance Theory</td>
<td>Fisher, Chapters 1-5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 20, 27</td>
<td>Fiscal Federalism and TELs</td>
<td>Fisher, Chapters 6, 10, 22.</td>
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**Oct 11, 18, 25 Development of Budget Theories -- Process, Reforms, and Innovations**

Fisher, Chapters 7, 8, 9, 19, 20, 21.


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**Nov 1, 8, 15 Tax Policy and Economic Development**

Fisher, Chapters 12 – 18, 9


Nov 22, 29 Debt and Treasury Management
Dec 6

Fisher, Chapter 11.


December 13 Final Exam