Economics 4150/5150  Course Syllabus  Spring 2010

Instructor:  Dr. Susan Dadres (sdadres@unt.edu)

Class Meetings:  MW 10:00 – 11:20, Hickory 252

Office:  283-F Hickory Hall (940-369-7984)

Office Hours:  MW 11:30 – 12:20 or by appointment


Course Objective:

Forming intelligent opinions about public policy requires not only a political philosophy but also an understanding of what government actually does and why. What does government spend money on, and how does it raise revenue? This class focuses on many government programs that are funded with your tax dollars (education, welfare, social security, etc.) as well as how those tax dollars are collected (commodity taxes, income taxes, etc).

Course Information:

Access grades and other course materials by logging on to http://ecampus.unt.edu.

Submit your answers to the unit quizzes online. The first two quizzes must be submitted before Exam 1, scheduled for Wednesday March 3. Quizzes 3 and 4 must be submitted before Exam 2, scheduled for Wednesday April 14. The last quiz must be submitted before the Final Exam, scheduled for Wednesday May 12 at 8:00 a.m. A grade of zero will be recorded for missing quizzes and your average quiz grade is worth 10% of the course grade.

In-class quizzes will include problems or discussions for small groups. Your average in-class quiz grade (based on your best 5 grades) is worth 10% of the course grade.

The group project will involve online discussion forums. The first step is to complete a survey available in Blackboard with questions about the five topics (education, social security, health care, welfare, and taxes) by February 3rd. Groups will be formed based on the survey responses. Each group will be responsible for posting discussion questions and monitoring the discussion on the assigned topic. In addition, each student must participate in the discussions monitored by other groups. Details will be posted in Blackboard under the icon “Group Project”. Grades will be assigned based on the group’s performance, a peer evaluation, and individual participation. The group project grade is worth 10% of the course grade.

Exam 1 covers chapters 1 – 3 and 11 and is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3. Your grade on Exam 1 is worth 20% of the course grade.
Exam 2 covers chapters 5, 6 and 12 and is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14. Your grade on Exam 2 is worth 20% of the course grade.

The comprehensive Final Exam covers chapters 1 – 3, 5 – 8, and 11 – 12 and is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, at 8:00 a.m. Your grade on the Final Exam is worth 30% of the course grade.

Exams include multiple choice, true/false, problems with graphs and calculations, and short answer questions.

After calculating your average, course grades are assigned according to the following scale:

\[ 90 - 100\% = A, \ 80 - 89\% = B, \ 70 - 79\% = C, \ 60 - 69\% = D, \ \text{and} \ 59\% \text{ or below} = F \]

**Make-Up Policies:**

If you miss an exam with a university-approved excuse, show me your documentation within one week to have the weight from that exam shifted to the comprehensive final exam. If you miss an in-class quiz with a university-approved excuse, show me your documentation within 1 week and request a topic so you can write a 2-page research paper as a make-up assignment, or allow the missed quiz to be the grade you drop.

The last day to drop the class with my consent is Tuesday, March 30. Go to the department office (Hickory Hall, room 254) to obtain a drop slip which I have already signed or see me to discuss your options. If you stop attending and do not drop the class, you may receive an "F" in the course.

You may request a grade of Incomplete only if at least one-half of the work has been completed with a passing grade and an emergency (illness, family emergency, etc.) prevents you from completing the rest. If you meet these requirements, request a grade of Incomplete before May 12 (you can make the request by email if you aren’t able to see me).

**Department Policies:**

If you have a disability for which you will require accommodation under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, please discuss your needs with me after class or at office hours.

The Economics Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have not registered with ODA, we encourage you to do so. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the 4th class day.
The UNT Department of Economics adheres to the University’s Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism. To view the complete policy go to http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/.

**Cheating:** The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:

1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
2. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
3. acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
4. dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

**Plagiarism:** Use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to:

1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.
Course Calendar:

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>1/25</td>
<td>Ch 1</td>
<td>The role of government</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>Ch 2</td>
<td>Externalities and the environment</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<td>Deadline for online survey</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>2/8</td>
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<td>Group assignments</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Ch 3</td>
<td>Public goods</td>
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<td>Ch 3</td>
<td>Political economy</td>
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<td>Ch 3</td>
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<td>2/22</td>
<td>Ch 11</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Ch 11</td>
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<td>Review</td>
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<td>Ch 7</td>
<td>Tax incidence and inefficiency</td>
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