

JSGS 802 – Public Finance – Winter 2021

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA CAMPUS	
INSTRUCTORS:	Dr. Iryna Khovrenkov
PHONE:	(306) 337-3351
E-MAIL:	iryna.khovrenkov@uregina.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Every Friday from 1pm to 2pm starting on January 22
OFFICE LOCATION:	Physical office – College Building room 332.5
TERM:	Winter 2021
ROOM:	Remote delivery (Zoom sessions and UR courses)
DATE AND TIME:	Tuesdays, 5:30pm to 8:15pm, January 12 to April 13, 2021

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to analyze how public dollars are allocated and by which key players when it comes to financing the public goods. The students will develop a critical understanding of the role of government and non-governmental organizations in delivering the public goods. Interactions between government and non-profits as well as between different levels of governments around fiscal decisions will also be examined. This course is offered as a mix of short lessons, guest speaker presentations and group discussions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will provide students with an understanding of how public goods are financed in Canada. The students will also gain knowledge about who are the key funders of public goods and how these funders interact. Additionally, the students will learn how public revenues are generated, which expenditure categories these revenues finance and economic and policy implications of the revenue-expenditure relationship. The purpose of the budget document and its meaning for Canadians will also be examined.

During this course, the students are expected to:

- Demonstrate critical and analytical thinking about issues central to public finances in Canada
- Critically communicate meaningful research about government revenues and government spending as well as fiscal federalism
- Differentiate the roles of multiple levels of government in relation to public finances

- Understand when, how and why governments intervene

CLASS INFORMATION

- *JSGS 802 Public Finance* will run every Tuesday, January 12 to April 13, 2021. There will be no class on February 16 due to reading week. This course will be delivered remotely with all material to be provided on UR courses.
- The **first virtual Zoom class will take place on Tuesday, January 19** at the scheduled time. Stay tuned for asynchronous activities to be completed on Tuesday, January 12.
- Students will receive access to new material by Saturday. This timeline will provide you with a few days to review the material before each virtual class on Tuesday.
- You will be evaluated based on two quizzes, one briefing note and on the quality of your engagement in this course.

EVALUATION

20% Student Engagement: Active engagement in learning is expected from all JSGS students. Engaging does not mean just attending. It is contributing, it is taking initiative, it is demonstrating motivation. Engagement in an online course will be different than participation in an in-person class. You will have an opportunity to engage via discussion forums (details will be provided on UR courses), in-class group discussions and by asking questions and offering topic-related comments during Zoom sessions.

25% Quiz #1: This open-book quiz will be held during regular class time on Tuesday, February 23. There will be no Zoom session on this day.

25% Quiz #2: This open-book quiz will be held during regular class time on Tuesday, April 6. There will be no Zoom session on this day.

30% Briefing Note: Students will be provided with instructions for completing a briefing note at 9am on April 14. Students will submit their completed briefing notes on Tuesday, April 20 by noon.

ACADEMIC HONOUR CODE

At the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS), we believe honesty and integrity are fundamental in a community dedicated to learning, personal development, and a search for understanding. We revere these values and hold them essential in promoting personal responsibility, moral and intellectual leadership, and pride in ourselves and our University. As JSGS students, we will represent ourselves truthfully, claim only work that is our own, and engage honestly in all academic assignments. Since articulated standards and expectations can influence attitudes, and because each of us shares the responsibility for maintaining academic integrity, we are committed to upholding the Academic Honor Code.

ACADEMIC HONOUR PLEDGE

As a member of the JSGS community, I pledge to live by and to support the letter and spirit of JSGS's Academic Honour Code.

U of R: Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uregina.ca/president/executive-team/ed-governance-univ-secretary/student-appeals/student-behaviour.html>

USask: Academic Misconduct

<https://secretariat.usask.ca/student-conduct-appeals/academic-misconduct.php#About>.

COURSE OUTLINE

Please note that detailed material with readings will be posted on UR Courses for each class. Below is a high-level list of JSGS 802 topics (subject to change):

- 1. Public Finance in a Multilevel Political System**
- 2. Canadian Fiscal Federalism**
- 3. Government's role in public good provision**
- 4. Role of nonprofit organizations in public good provision**
- 5. Tax Incidence, Efficiency and Equity**
- 6. Personal Income Taxes**
- 7. Sales Taxes**
- 8. Framework for Government Spending**
- 9. Government's Role in Education**
- 10. Government's Health Spending**
- 11. Budgets – what are they and why do we need them?**

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

U of R: Students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for accommodations are encouraged to discuss this need with the instructor and to contact the Coordinator of Special Needs Services at (306) 585-4631.

U OF S: Students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for accommodations are encouraged to discuss this need with the instructor and to contact Disability Services for Students (DSS) at (306) 966-7273.

STUDENTS EXPERIENCING STRESS

University of Regina (U of R): Students in this course who are experiencing stress can seek assistance from the University of Regina Counselling Services. For more information, please see the attached document, visit this website: <http://www.uregina.ca/student/counselling/contact.html>, or call (306) 585-4491 between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saskatchewan time Monday to Friday.