

JSGS 805 – Economics for Public Policy Analysis

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA CAMPUS	
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Iryna Khovrenkov
PHONE:	306-337-3351
E-MAIL:	iryna.khovrenkov@uregina.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Tuesdays, September 13 – December 6 (except November 8), 12:15 pm – 1pm on Zoom or by appointment
OFFICE LOCATION:	College Building room 332.5
TERM:	Fall 2022
ROOM:	In-person CB 330
DATE AND TIME:	Tuesdays, 5:30pm – 8:15pm

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to acknowledge the prior work of Murray Fulton, Yang Yang, and Marc-André Pigeon in the development of materials that serve as the foundation for this course.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Saskatchewan campus of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis, while the University of Regina campus is situated on Treaty 4 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another. In doing so, we are actively participating in reconciliation as we navigate our time in this course, learning and supporting each other.

FALL 2022 RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

The University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan have returned to in-person instruction. Students registered for in-person programs at JSGS should prepare to attend classes in Regina and Saskatoon. There will be very limited opportunity to join virtually as an accommodation, and this would be at the discretion of the instructor. Core classes in the MPA program will return to in-person instruction in Saskatoon and Regina. Elective classes will be offered online, through a mix of synchronous and asynchronous delivery.

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to provide an economic framework for the analysis of public policy. The course uses microeconomic concepts that are instrumental in understanding and conducting public policy analysis. The course pays particular attention to how people and firms behave and how they are likely to respond to policy interventions.

Note: This course is intended for students who had limited prior exposure to economics. Though it is not a formal pre-requisite for JSGS 802, the latter assumes students have successfully completed JSGS 805.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

JSGS has developed a set of three competencies that all graduates will be able to demonstrate. The specific readings, assignments and activities in JSGS 805 will help you both acquire and demonstrate the ability to:

- Demonstrate how economic factors influence policy through a series of policy case analysis
- Think critically and analytically about policy problems and issues from an economic perspective
- Analyze policy problems using economic theory
- Communicate information and analyses critically and effectively.

COURSE CONTENT AND APPROACH

In JSGS 805, students will learn the economic framework for the analysis of public policy by reviewing content related to economic concepts, engaging in interactive class activities, and completing independent and group-based assignments. To help students understand the key economic concepts and tools that have been covered, the course features modules focused on applying these concepts to solve real-world policy problems and issues. A critical component throughout this course will be the use of applied examples and cases, which will allow students to think critically and analytically about policy problems from an economic perspective.

This course is offered through a set of in-person classes. Students are expected to attend each class and engage in active learning. This course will adopt some elements of a “flipped classroom” approach, which is around an idea that lecture or direct instruction is not the best use of class time. Instead, students should review textbook readings and other assigned material to be available on Canvas prior to class, freeing class time to focus on key points, in-depth discussions and applied learning activities.

REQUIRED READINGS

Textbooks assigned for this course are **all open access**. The two textbooks are:

1. **Principles of Microeconomics** by Douglas Curtis & Ian Irvine (2017 edition) – Canadian-based textbook

Available here: https://laecon1.lyryx.com/textbooks/CURTIS_PRIN_MIC_1/marketing/CI-Principles-of-Microeconomics-2021A.pdf

2. **CORE Economics: Economics, Society and Public Policy** (ESPP)– Internationally-based textbook

Available here: <https://www.core-econ.org/espp/book/text/0-3-contents.html>

Students will be directed to review specific chapters when class material is made available on Canvas.

COURSE OUTLINE

****Note: This content is currently being updated. The final version of this syllabus will be made available on Canvas on September 1, 2022.**

1. How Can Economics Help Public Policy? (September 6)

The study of economics equips us with new measurements and decision-making tools that can re-shape public policy debates by helping to explain the link between seemingly disconnected events. Broadly understanding what economics is and the value of economic thinking serves as a good starting point for the course.

Curtis & Irvin (2017): Chapter 1, Section 1.1. "What is it all about?"
Additional material will be made available on Canvas on September 1.

2. Decision-Making by Consumers and Consumers' Demand (September 13)

Curtis & Irvin (2017): Chapter 6 and Chapter 3, Sections 3.3 & 3.4
ESPP: Unit 7, Section 7.3

3. Decision-Making by Producers and Producers' Supply (September 20)

***Individual Assignment is posted on Canvas by 4pm.*

Curtis & Irvin (2017): Chapter 8, Section 8.2; Chapter 9, Section 9.3; Chapter 3, Section 3.5

4. Market Equilibrium and Price Responsiveness (September 27)

***Individual Assignment is due by 4pm. Submit by email to iryna.khovrenkov@uregina.ca*

ESPP: Unit 7, Section 7.9
Curtis & Irvin (2017): Chapter 4, Section 4.1 & 4.6

5. Market Power and Market Failure (October 4)

This module examines the market structure and various examples of market failures.

Curtis & Irvin (2017): Perfect competition – Chapter 9: Sections 9.1 and 9.2; Monopoly – Chapter 10: Sections 10.1; Monopolistic Competition – Chapter 11: Section 11.4; Oligopoly – Chapter 11: Section 11.6; Market Failure – Chapter 14, Section 14.1.
ESPP: Unit 11, Sections 11.7, 11.11, 11.12, 11.13.

6. Economic Analysis of Policy Instruments (October 11)

The standard policy tools – e.g., taxes, subsidies – have important impacts on the economy and social welfare.

Material for this module will be made available on Canvas.

7. Mid-term Exam (October 18 – in class)

Students will write a 2-hour midterm exam. It will cover modules 1 – 6.

8. Fairness and Efficiency (November 1)

A key trade-off in policy is the one between efficiency and fairness. This module examines this trade-off.

Curtis & Irvin (2017): Chapter 5, Section 5.1
ESPP: Unit 3

9. Fall Break (November 7 – 11)

No class on November 8 due to Fall Break.

10. Decision-Making Under Uncertainty (November 15)

Many of the choices that people make involve considerable uncertainty. This module examines how we take uncertainties into account when making decisions.

Material for this module will be made available on Canvas.

11. Inflation (November 22)

In this module, we will define inflation and discuss why it matters as well as its implications for the economy.

Material for this module will be made available on Canvas.

12. Final Exam (November 29 – in class)

***Group Assignment is posted on Canvas by 4pm.*

Students will write a 2-hour final exam. While this exam will cover all modules, a heavier weight will be given to modules 8 – 11.

13. Final Assignment (due on December 6 by 4pm)

Students will work in groups of 2-3 individuals and will submit only one assignment as a group. The grade of each group member will be determined based on the quality of the answers and on a peer evaluation of group members. Details on the peer evaluation will follow. Submit your group assignment by email to iryna.khovrenkov@uregina.ca.

EVALUATION

Format	Due Date	Percentage
Individual Assignment	Due on September 27 by 4:00 pm	20%
Mid-term exam	In class on October 18 (2 hours)	20%
Final Exam	In class on November 29 (2 hours)	30%
Group Assignment	Due on December 6 by 4:00 pm	30%
Total		100%

* All times are in Central Standard Time, which is the time zone for Regina and Saskatoon.

**Submit your assignments electronically by email to iryana.khovrenkov@uregina.ca.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will not be accepted after the deadline unless an extension has been arranged in advance with the instructor. Extensions are at the discretion of the instructor but will be granted for reasons usually acceptable in a professional environment such as illness or unforeseen caregiving or work obligations.

JSGS GRADE DESCRIPTIONS

You can find grade descriptors on page 10 of the Student Handbook:

https://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca/documents/student-resources/2018-19_JSGS%20handbook_UofR-FINAL.pdf

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

Understanding and following the principles of academic integrity and conduct is vital to your success in graduate school. Ensuring that your work is your own and reflects both your own ideas and those of others incorporated in your work is important: ensuring that you acknowledge the ideas, words, and phrases of others that you use is a vital part of the scholarly endeavour. The JSGS has developed an Honour Code (see below) that encapsulates these values.

If you have any questions at all about academic integrity in general or about specific issues, contact any faculty member and we can discuss your questions. For more information, please see:

Academic Integrity – <https://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/current-students/academic-integrity/index.html>

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 (see below for details on academic integrity at the JGS), we are committed to upholding the Academic Honor Code.

COPYRIGHT

Course materials are provided to you based on your registration in a class, and anything created by your professors and instructors is their intellectual property, unless materials are designated as open education resources. This includes exams, PowerPoint/PDF slides and other course notes. Additionally, other copyright-protected materials created by textbook publishers and authors may be provided to you based on license terms and educational exceptions in the Canadian Copyright Act (see <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).

University of Regina Copyright information: <https://www.uregina.ca/copyright/guidelines/fair-dealing.html>

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

<https://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/current-students/Rights%20/index.html> **Rights & Responsibilities of graduate students**

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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 one of the following:

Centre for Student Accessibility – accessibility@uregina.ca or 306-585-4631.
<https://www.uregina.ca/student/accessibility/students/index.html>

STUDENTS EXPERIENCING STRESS

Counselling Services – <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.

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION INFORMATION

More information on the Academic Courses Policy on course delivery, examinations and assessment of student learning can be found at: <http://policies.usask.ca/policies/academic-affairs/academic-courses.php>

The University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter is intended to define aspirations about the learning experience that the University aims to provide, and the roles to be played in realizing these aspirations by students, instructors and the institution. A copy of the Learning Charter can be found at: <http://teaching.usask.ca/about/policies/learning-charter.php>.