

Vesalius College

Course description

Course title: Economics of the Public and Nonprofit Sectors

Course code: ECN 305E

Teacher responsible: Robert Scott Gassler

Course description:

The role of government and nonprofit sectors in the economy. Public expenditures: benefit-cost analysis, national security and regulatory policy with special attention to environmental policy. Taxation: efficiency, equity, incentive effects. Transfers and social programmes. Special attention to the advantages and disadvantages of the modern welfare state. Local public finance, intergovernmental fiscal relations, relations between public and nonprofit sectors. Prerequisites: ECN 211E, STA 201E

Course objectives:

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Describe the major theoretical models covered in class verbally, geometrically, and in some cases mathematically.
2. Apply these models to the solution of numerical problems and simple narrative cases.

Describe the limitations of the models in both theory and application.

Grade weighting scheme:

First Midterm Examination	20%
Second Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	30%
Term paper	30%
Proposal and Preliminary Bibliography	5%
Descriptive Outline	5%
First Draft	5%
Final Paper	15%

Used course material (handbooks, readers, readings, newspapers, magazines) and references:

Sara Connolly and Alistair Munro. *Economics of the Public Sector*. Financial Times Press, 1999. ISBN-10: 013096641X