PUAD 5004—ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC FINANCE  
University of Colorado Denver  
MPA Program  
Spring 2015  
Three Credits  

Method of Delivery: Online  

Professor: Dr. Ross C. Alexander  
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Email: ross.alexander@ucdenver.edu  
Virtual Office Hours:  
- Sunday 500-700 pm MST  
- Tuesday 500-700 pm MST  
**the best way to contact me is via email**  

UC Denver Course Description  
Uses economics to explore public and private sector roles, and the allocation of resources in the public sector. Introduces the concepts of public goods, market failure, and externalities. The effects of taxation and subsidies on consumer and firm behavior are analyzed. Also covers cost benefit analysis and national, state, and local budgeting methods.  

Course Overview  
This course is distinct from, but complementary to, the graduate course in the MPA program in public budgeting, as it will cover some common ground. In this course, however, we are more concerned with the public policy implications (outputs) of public finance models, strategies, schemes, and models at all levels of government—federal, state, and local. Importantly, as well, it is my goal in this course to help you apply the theories and techniques learned, addressed, and discussed to your careers in the public sector.  

Required Course Competencies  

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<tr>
<th>Required Competency</th>
<th>Sub-Competency</th>
<th>Assessment(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To lead and manage in public governance</td>
<td>The student is able to set mission-driven goals and use data, performance indicators, economic concepts and continuous improvement approaches to manage and lead in service of the mission</td>
<td>Online discussions, Analysis papers, PowerPoint presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>To participate in the policy process</td>
<td>The student understands the process and context of</td>
<td>Online discussions, Analysis papers</td>
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policymaking at all levels of democratic government
PowerPoint presentations
Midterm exam
Final exam

The student understands and is able to apply techniques for generating and selecting among policy alternatives
Analysis papers
PowerPoint presentations
Midterm exam
Final exam

To analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make decisions

The student understands and is able to apply different perspectives and assumptions to generate policy and management decision alternatives
Online discussions
Analysis papers
PowerPoint presentations
Midterm exam
Final exam

About the Professor
I have been a university professor since 1999, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in political science and public administration, in both face-to-face and online formats. In addition, I have created numerous online courses for several universities. I have held several professor and administrator positions at several universities across the country. I possess a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northern Illinois University with emphases in public administration, American politics, and political theory in addition to an MPA from Arizona State University. I have written a book, several book chapters, and numerous peer-reviewed journal articles in the areas of state and local government, public budgeting and finance, public personnel administration, gambling policy, information literacy, and American politics. I enjoy spending time with my wife, physical fitness, and watching college football.

Instructor Availability
I strive to be accessible to your needs, concerns, questions, suggestions, and comments. I will be active in the class five days per week, probably more. I will return your emails within 24 hours (48 hours on the weekends), probably sooner. I will grade your assignments as quickly as possible, providing feedback on your work. The internal classroom email tool or UC Denver email is the best method of contacting me.

Expectations of Students and Success in this Course
As students working in the online environment, you are expected to:

1) actively participate in course discussions in each and every learning module
2) access the course several days per week to monitor and participate in discussions, check announcements, and submit assignments
3) familiarize yourself with the technology and course expectations at the outset of the class
4) respect your classmates and maintain a professional and respectful tone in discussions and communications
5) substantiate your detailed discussion postings with proper academic evidence (i.e. peer-reviewed journal articles)
6) Submit assignments on time and meet guidelines of the assignments (i.e. page length and minimum number of sources)

7) have an open mind and have fun!

**Required Text**

**Discussion Guidelines**
Your active and involved participation in each discussion in each module is integral to your success in this course. To be successful, therefore, you must provide detailed posts that are properly substantiated with academic evidence in APA format. As a graduate-level class, you are either preparing for careers in the public and nonprofit sector or already working in the public/nonprofit sector. Therefore, proper etiquette, tone, and writing style are important. In each discussion, you must provide a detailed initial posting, with proper citations to support your points, arguments, contentions. Then, you must provide a minimum of two (2) responses to your classmates, beyond “you’re right,” or “I agree.” All of your posts, for each discussion forum, must have substance and clarity. Do not wait until the last day of the module to participate in the discussion. I will notice and your grade will be adversely affected. Discussions, and this course, are ultimately about interaction among all of us. Your initial post for each module should be completed no later than half-way through the module.

**Assessments**

**Midterm Exam**—the midterm exam will be a take-home, essay-based exam covering topics from the first half of the course. You may use your textbook as a guide. If you borrow material from it, be sure to cite it in APA format. The exam must be submitted to the assignment dropbox on the due date/time.

**Final Exam**—the final exam will be a take-home, essay-based exam covering topics from the second half of the course (it is not comprehensive). You may use your textbook as a guide. If you borrow material from it, be sure to cite it in APA format. The exam must be submitted to the assignment dropbox on the due date/time.

**Analysis Papers**—you will write two (2) Analysis Papers for this course. Each must be 4-5 pages in length, using APA format, and utilizing a minimum of three (3) peer-reviewed journal articles to support your claims and analysis. Your task is to analyze (not summarize) a particular issue or theme related to the course. Be specific and be detailed. I want your analysis of your chosen issue and I want your opinion on it. Why is it important? How does it relate to the class? What are the implications? Be creative. You will be able to choose your own topic for each paper. The only requirement with regard to topic is that it is germane and relevant to the course material. Each paper must be submitted to the assignment dropbox on the due date/time.

**PowerPoint Presentations**—you will craft two (2) detailed PowerPoint presentations in this course. Each presentation must be 8-10 slides total, with detailed speaker notes (the “notes” section on the bottom of every slide). You must utilize and properly cite at least three (3) peer-reviewed journal articles in each presentation. You may choose your own topic for each presentation, the only requirement being that it must be germane and relevant to the course (and different from the topics you utilized for the Analysis Papers). Write these presentations as if you would be presenting them to a class or public body.
Be professional be detailed, and be concise. Your presentations must be uploaded to the assignment dropbox on the due date/time.

**Discussions**—as mentioned above, discussions are an integral part of this course. For each module (except Module Eight), you will participate in two (2) discussions. You must post a detailed initial post for each module, citing any sources and borrowed information in APA format. Then, you must offer a minimum of two (2) response postings of substance, for a total of three (3) posts per discussion.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analysis Papers</td>
<td>2@50 each=100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PowerPoint Presentations</td>
<td>2@50 each=100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>15@10 each=150</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points for the Course</strong></td>
<td><strong>550</strong></td>
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**Course Schedule**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th><strong>each module is approximately two (2) weeks</strong></th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</table>
| Module One | Tuesday, January 20 to Sunday, February 1 | Gruber, Chapters 1-3  
Discussion #1  
Discussion #2 |
| Module Two | Monday, February 2 to Sunday, February 15 | Gruber, Chapters 4-6  
Discussion #3  
Discussion #4  
Analysis Paper #1 |
| Module Three | Monday, February 16 to Sunday, March 1 | Gruber, Chapters 7-9  
Discussion #5  
Discussion #6  
PowerPoint Presentation #1 |
| Module Four | Monday, March 2 to Sunday, March 15 | Gruber, Chapters 10-12  
Discussion #7  
Discussion #8  
Midterm Exam |
| Module Five | Monday, March 16 to Sunday, March 29 | Gruber, Chapters 13-15  
Discussion #9  
Discussion #10 |
| Module Six | Monday, March 30 to Sunday, April 12 | Gruber, Chapters 16-18  
Discussion #11  
Discussion #12  
Analysis Paper #2 |
| Module Seven | Monday, April 13 to Sunday, April 26 | Gruber, Chapters 19-21  
Discussion #13  
Discussion #14 |
Grading Scale
Final grades will be assigned on the following scale (based on points achieved divided by total possible points):

- **A** 94-100
- **A-** 90-93
- **B+** 88-89
- **B** 84-87
- **B-** 80-83
- **C+** 78-79
- **C** 74-77
- **C-** 70-73

Failing: below 70

Late Assignments
Late assignments will not be accepted except due to dire circumstances, such as a documented medical, personal, or professional emergency. If legitimate, I will work with you, but you must notify me in advance. If your reason is legitimate, I will levy either no penalty or a minimal penalty for late assignments (except for discussions). Late discussion postings will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Changes to the Course and Syllabus
The professor reserves the right to make changes to the course with regard to due dates, schedule, and assignments as necessary. All students will be notified of any changes to the course.

Code of Conduct and Plagiarism
As a University of Colorado at Denver student (or taking a UCD class), you are expected to abide by the University of Colorado at Denver Student Code of Conduct. The following is a link for the University of Colorado at Denver Student Code of Conduct:

http://carbon.cudenver.edu/public/studlife/01pages/Codeofconduct.html

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s ideas or words without acknowledgement. The incorporation of another person’s work into yours requires appropriate identification and acknowledgement. Examples of plagiarism when the source is not noted include: word-for-word copying of another person’s ideas or words; the “mosaic” (interspersing your own words here and there while, in essence, copying another’s work); the paraphrase (the rewriting of another’s work, while still using their basic ideas or theories); fabrication (inventing or counterfeiting sources); submission of another’s work as your own; and neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes, even on material that is otherwise acknowledge.

Cheating involves the possession, communication, or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices and rubrics not specifically authorized by the course instructor in any academic exercise, or unauthorized communication with any other person during an academic exercise. Examples of cheating include: copying from another’s work or receiving unauthorized assistance from another; using
a calculator, computer, or the internet when its use has been precluded; collaborating without the consent of the instructor; submitting another's work as one's own.

Fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information—creating results not properly obtained through study or laboratory experiment. Falsification involves deliberate alteration or changing of results to suit one's needs in an experiment or academic exercise.

Multiple submissions involves submitting academic work in a current course when academic credit for the work was previously earned in another course, when such submission is made without the current course instructor's authorization. Misuse of academic materials includes: theft/destruction of library or reference materials or computer programs; theft/destroyed of another student's notes or materials; unauthorized possession of another student’s notes or materials; theft/destruction of examinations, papers, or assignments; unauthorized assistance in locating/using sources of information when forbidden or not authorized by the instructor; unauthorized possession, disposition, or use of examinations or answer keys; unauthorized alteration, forgery, fabrication, or falsification of academic records; unauthorized sale or purchase of examinations, papers, or assignments.

Complicity in academic dishonesty involves knowingly contributing to or cooperating with another's act(s) of academic dishonesty.

Disability Policy
The University of Colorado Denver is committed to providing reasonable accommodation and access to programs and services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who want academic accommodations must register with Disability Resources and Services (DRS) in North Classroom 2514, Phone: 303-556-3450, TTY: 303-556-4766, Fax: 303-556-4771. I will be happy to provide approved accommodations, once you provide me with a copy of DRS's letter.

[DRS requires students to provide current and adequate documentation of their disabilities. Once a student has registered with DRS, DRS will review the documentation and assess the student’s request for academic accommodations in light of the documentation. DRS will then provide the student with a letter indicating which academic accommodations have been approved.]

Auraria Library
The Auraria Library possesses a wealth of pertinent information, including databases you must utilize to search for academic articles for this course. In addition, you can chat remotely or call to speak with a qualified Librarian to assist you in your research. The link is: http://library.auraria.edu/services/researchhelp/specialists

Writing Center
If you need assistance with your written work, beyond what I can assist you with, please contact the Writing Center at the following link: http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Centers/writing/Pages/TheWritingCenter.aspx