PUAD 5004-002 Course Syllabus
Spring 2015 – North Classroom 1325
Thursdays 5:00 pm – 7:45 pm

Instructor Information: Tamara Hannaway MBA, Ph.D.
Office: Virtual Office
Office Hours: I will be available before class for 30 minutes, after class as long as there are questions, and at the request of the student for appointments.
Contact: Best reached by phone: 720-320-6823. Email is second best: tamara.hannaway@ucdenver.edu


Official Course Description
PAD 5004. Economics and Public Finance. 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. (University of Colorado at Denver, School of Public Affairs. 2009) Course Descriptions.)

Course Overview
The three core areas covered in the text for this course are as follows:
1) Externalities and Public Goods. Externalities are important public policy issues, and provide context to study the public sector and its relationship to the economy. Externality topics covered in this section are current issues in environmental protection and sustainability such as acid rain and global warming, and health externalities. Other key topics are education, fiscal federalism, creating and using a cost/benefit analysis, and political economy/public choice issues.
2) Social Insurance and Redistribution. In this section, issues of wealth, asset, or income redistribution are discussed. Social welfare issues including welfare policy; Social Security; Unemployment Insurance, Workers’ Compensation and Disability Insurance and both public and private health insurance are covered.
3) Taxation in Theory and Practice. This section offers a theoretical presentation of public finance that focus on the key sources of current policy debate, including capital gains taxation, estate taxation, and the use of the tax code as a tool of social policy through tax credits for labor supply, childcare, and other activities.

In addition to the course text, several areas of study are required.
4) Budgeting. This section provides an opportunity for the student to create a budget that meets requirements of a group of stakeholders in a public policy or public sector arena. Students will apply the theories in this class to manage the budget creation process.
5) Prerequisite information and economics review: In order to study the topics above, a student must understand basic economics. Economics basics are emphasized in the first class periods.
6) The Nobel Laureates and other notable economists. To provide perspective, students will study the development of economic thought by researching select economists. This element, along with the following, is included to add a breadth of knowledge, and add a context in which economics and public finance co-exist.
7) Commanding Heights. This PBS documentary and web site provides another form of learning about globalization and the political and economic development of our economy since the turn of the last century. This will be our starting point.

Course Objectives
1) The student will recognize and understand key concepts in the foundations of economics, public policy, and public finance.
2) The student will notice how economics is in use in everyday life, and form an economic understanding of the choices s/he makes in a situation constrained by scarcity.
3) The student will think in economic terms and apply microeconomic concepts to “understand the effects government interventions in the economy.”
4) The student will think macro economically and apply the concepts of macroeconomics to the issues in public finance and its components using empirical data and statistical methods.

5) The student will think in terms of costs and benefits, and think 'on the margin'.

6) The student will apply theories of Policy and Economic Architects to his/her analysis process.

7) The student will apply the concepts of economics, cost/benefit, taxation, and budgeting to his/her personal experience as a citizen, employee, employer, voter, and taxpayer.

8) The student will analyze and evaluate a policy, budget, and a taxation situation and create a report.

9) The student will synthesize - gain or hone an ability to decipher through the filter of economics and public finance, information from media, external sources, literature, journals, research, and conversation. Then, s/he will apply this filtered information to academic and other pursuits.

Communication with the Instructor
Best reached by phone: 720-320-6823.
Email is second best: tamara.hannaway@ucdenver.edu
Private concerns, please call or email me.

Attendance/Work Completion Policy
Completing assignments on time is critical to your success in the course. Late work is not accepted.
Work may be turned in early. No work will be accepted late for any reason.

Full attendance is expected. One absence for any reason is permitted. The second absence for any reason will cost the student one letter grade. Should a student miss three classes for any reason, that student will earn an F.

Points missed while absent cannot be made up.

Etiquette and Conduct
- Appropriate professional conduct and demeanor are expected. Class participation is critical to understanding the material. During class time, computers will be closed.
- No communication using digital technology will be tolerated unless at the request of the professor for research or news for the whole class. Disrespecting the technology restrictions will negatively affect the student and the class by removing participation points for the class period in which the rule is violated.
- Office casual or professional attire is required for presentations.
- You are responsible for the content of your writing. Please be aware that you have the responsibility to keep your communication civil, friendly, and professional.

Code of Conduct
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

Technical Requirements
Contact Online Student Services

Grading Standards
See Student Handbook Section 7.1

IW/IF Policy
See 2009-2010 Student Handbook Section 7.1.1
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 %
D  =  Failing

Grades on a break point (such as 90%) will NOT be rounded up and may be rounded down at the discretion of the professor with total student and class performance considered.
Grades at points other than a break point (89.99999%) will be rounded DOWN.
Students can view their current grade inside side the course grade book (see menu above).

Assessment Criteria

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Area</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Assignments = 38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empirical and Theoretical Tools, Commanding Heights Insights</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>Jan 22- Feb/05, 2015</td>
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<td>and Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Assessment and Recommendations Paper and Presentation</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2/25/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam - Midterm</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3/12/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Budget Project - Group Analysis, Evaluation and</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4/16/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxpayer Project - Group Analysis, Evaluation and Presentation</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>5/07/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam - Final</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5/14/2015</td>
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<td>Homework</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1/22 - 5/5/ 2015</td>
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<td>Weekly Participation</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1/22 - 5/5/ 2015</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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Academic Honesty
You are expected to do your own work. All work submitted should include citations or other indications when other's work is included with your own. Representation of other's work as your own is considered cheating. This includes plagiarism, work purchased from "paper mills" and sharing of test answers.

If the instructor suspects cheating she may, at his discretion, provide an alternate or make-up assignment.
In the case, that a student submits works with inconsistencies in answers--such as correctly identifying a person on a multiple-choice question and misidentifying the person in an essay question--the instructor may deduct points for both questions.

This course of action will be taken when the instructor determines that the student has provided a correct answer that was not based on their knowledge of the material.
The instructor may make use of anti-cheating services to ensure that submitted work is original.
Finally, cheating diminishes the value of your learning. If you find yourself struggling in this course, please contact the instructor!
Other Policies
It is University of Colorado at Denver and the Graduate School of Public Affairs policy that all materials created by a student for this course must adhere to proper and correct applications of spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Deviations from these expectations can result in student work being rejected for evaluation and/or grading.

You must not produce inflammatory, profane, plagiarized, or otherwise inappropriate material for this class. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an "F" for the semester and immediate dismissal from class. You may also face other repercussions from the Graduate School of Public Affairs and the University of Colorado. When in doubt, ask the instructor.

Textbooks
Dr. Jonathan Gruber is a Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he has taught since 1992. He is also the Director of the Program on Children at the National Bureau of Economic Research, where he is a Research Associate. He is a co-editor of the Journal of Public Economics, and an Associate Editor of the Journal of Health Economics.

Yergin, Daniel, & Stanislaw, Joseph. (2002). The Commanding Heights: The Battle over the World Economy: Free Press. This book is also used, either in video or text form, and both are available at most libraries. The video is available for free by streaming it from the PBS website. www.PBS.org.

Disability Services Information
To ensure disability-related concerns are properly addressed, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class are expected to contact me as soon as possible. For further information regarding disability-related accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 177 Arts Building at 303.556.3450.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
For information on FERPA please go to: http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html

Important Dates
Students are responsible for knowing all academic dates for each semester they are enrolled. Please see the Registrar’s web site for the full academic calendar.

Submission of Assignments
All assignments are submitted in person unless otherwise required by the instructor.