PAD 5004 Course Syllabus
Spring 2010
Instructor Information: Tamara Hannaway, ABD, MBA
Office: Adjunct instructor – hours by appt. only. TAMARA.HANNAWAY@ucdenver.edu

Official Course Description
PAD 5004/7004-3. 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]:
1) Externality 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. Therefore, the last section is a review or introduction of basic economics, depending on the prior education of the student. In this section, the student will study supply, demand and equilibrium, utility, marginal change, price elasticity, opportunity cost, scarcity and choice, comparative advantage and specialization, measurement of economic performance, and monetary and fiscal policy basics. If you do not need this primer, you may skip it or refer to it as needed. It will remain open.
6) The Nobel Laureates and other notable economists. To provide perspective, students will study the development of economic thought by researching select economists and Nobel Laureates. 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) Recognize and understand key concepts in the foundations of economics, public policy, and public finance.
2) Notice how economics is in use in everyday life, and form an economic understanding of the choices you make in a situation constrained by scarcity.
3) Think in economic terms and apply microeconomic concepts to “understand the effects government interventions in the economy.”
4) 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) Think in terms of costs and benefits, and think 'on the margin'.
6) Apply theories of Policy and Economic Architects to your analysis process.
7) Apply the concepts of economics, cost/benefit, taxation, and budgeting to your personal experience as a citizen, employee, employer, voter, and taxpayer.

8) Analyze and evaluate a policy, budget, and a taxation report.

9) 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, apply this filtered information to your academic and other pursuits.

**Attendance/Work Completion Policy**

Attendance is required. Completing assignments on time is critical to your success in the course. Late work is not accepted.

**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](http://carbon.cudenver.edu/public/studlife/01pages/Codeofconduct.html)

**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 (89.999999%) will be rounded DOWN.

Students can view their current grade inside the course grade book (see menu above).

**Assessment Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Area</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group Projects = 40%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxpayer Project - Group Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Budget Project - Group Report</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Budget Presentation - Group Report</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individual Objective Assessments: = 60%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly discussions</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam - Cost/Benefit (Chapters 1-8)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Policy Assessment and Recommendations Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economist Research, Report, and Discussion = 10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual synthesis of Economist and Class Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final - Cumulative Discussions and Synthesis Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100%</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 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](http://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)**


**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.

**Course Due Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Projects = 40%</th>
<th>April - 27</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxpayer Project - Group Report</td>
<td>April - 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Budget Project - Group Report</td>
<td>April - 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Budget Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individual Objective Assessments: = 60%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly attendance through discussions or quizzes</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost/Benefit Exam (Chapter 8 with preceding chapter quizzes added into total test grade)</td>
<td>Mar -9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Policy Assessment and Recommendations Paper</td>
<td>Feb - 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economist Research &amp; Report</td>
<td>Feb - 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economist Synthesis Presentation</td>
<td>May - 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final - Cumulative Discussions and Synthesis Paper</strong></td>
<td>May - 11</td>
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