

Summary Syllabus
Economics 355
The Political Economy of Nonprofit Institutions

Dr. Bennett
TR 10:30-11:45

Spring 2019
Mason Hall D180

Course Objectives:

The course has two objectives. The first is to develop your critical thinking skills, i.e., to teach students to effectively use economic concepts to solve realistic problems. The second, and equally important, objective is to teach students how to express their ideas effectively through writing.

Required Text: None

Course Requirements and Grades:

This course is writing intensive. Ninety percent of the final grade is based on a series of brief (1.5 pages MAXIMUM) papers on various topics. Papers must be typed double spaced using 12-point font with one-inch margins. ***Late papers are not accepted under any circumstances; the grade of zero is assigned to a late or omitted paper; papers must be handed in during class -- not after class has been dismissed.*** E-mailed papers are not accepted, nor are faxes. (Another student can hand in your paper during class if you make such an arrangement for when you cannot attend.) In addition to content, papers will be graded on punctuation, organization, spelling, diction, and grammar. There are no exams. Ten percent of the final grade is based on a book review presented in class and participation. ***ACTIVE class participation*** is required in addition to ***punctual (if door is closed, don't open it) and consistent attendance***. You should expect to be called on to contribute to the discussion and prepare accordingly.

I will communicate with the class by e-mail; you will benefit by checking your e-mail frequently. *Office Hours:* Tuesday, 8:30 to 9:30; other times by appointment. NOTE: My office is only a short distance from the class room; you can come in before or after class easily.

e-mail: jbennett@gmu.edu; phone: 703-993-1155.

Assignment 1 Due in Class on January 22, 2019 -- the first class session.... The Prompt

Five years ago, I established a public policy think tank, the Reagan Institute for Public Policy (RIPP) that advocates limited government, low taxes, free markets, deregulation, and individual liberty. As RIPP's president, I spend almost all of my time and energy seeking donations from individuals and grants from companies and foundations to support RIPP's research, publication, and advocacy agenda. I am very committed to RIPP, so I hired you as Director of Research to manage the work of our of interns (all of whom are Mason Econ students, both graduate and undergraduate) who write RIPP's position papers and to direct our research and studies program.

One day, I ask you a simple question: “In the 2016 presidential election, who do you think I would have wanted to win and why?” Answer this question in a paper that conforms to the Summary Syllabus requirements and give the reasoning behind your choice.

[Hint: You aren’t required to limit your choice to the “usual suspects”, e.g., Clinton, Sanders, Kasich, Trump, Carson, Fiorina, Rubio, Cruz, Christie, et al. Anyone eligible to serve as POTUS is game.]