

Public Choice Economics

Econ 410-01, Spring 2019

Instructor: Denver Casey

Time: R 4:30—7:10 PM

Email: dcasey3@gmu.edu

Place: TBD

Prerequisites: ECON 306 - Intermediate Microeconomics

Note: This syllabus is highly tentative and subject to change before the course begins

Office Hours: Buchanan Hall, D162

W — TBD

R — TBD

Required Texts:

- Randall Holcombe, *Advanced Introduction to Public Choice*.
- Additional readings that will be noted as appropriate.

Overview: This course examines the application of economics to political markets. Lectures will coincide with the texts but will modify and extend the concepts found in the readings.

Grade Composition: 3 Problem Sets (5% each, 15% total), 2 Exams (20% each, 40% total), Cumulative Final (30%), Class Participation (5%), and a Short Essay (10%). Also, there will be extra credit questions on exams. (10% total). Problem sets are due at the beginning of class on exam days.

Grade Scale:

- $x \geq 90\%$ — A
- $90\% > x \geq 88\%$ — B+
- $88\% > x \geq 80\%$ — B
- $80\% > x \geq 78\%$ — C+
- $78\% > x \geq 70\%$ — C
- $70\% > x \geq 60\%$ — D
- $60\% > x$ — F

Tentative Schedule

TBD

Important Dates

- First class.....Thursday, January 24
- Last day to add.....Tuesday, January 29
- Last day to drop.....Tuesday, February 5
- P.S. 1 Due.....TBD
- 1st Exam.....TBD
- P.S. 2 Due.....TBD
- 2nd Exam.....TBD
- Spring BreakMarch 11 – March 17
- Short Essay Due.....TBD
- P.S. 3 Due.....TBD
- Last class.....Thursday, May 2
- Reading days.....Tuesday, May 7
- Final Exam.....Thursday, May 10

(Note: Final Exam is scheduled 4:30 — 7:15 PM)

General Policies

- Regular attendance is strongly recommended. The readings are intended to serve as a foundation so that you can understand the lecture. PowerPoints used in the lectures will be made available online after class, but they will not contain all the information relayed in the lecture.
- Problem Sets are due at the beginning of class. As we will go over the answers in class, *late problem sets will receive a score of zero.* Collaboration on Problem Sets is allowed, but each student is responsible for turning in their own set.
- You will need a blue book for each exam, which are available in the bookstore. Exams will consist of several multiple-choice questions, a few short answer questions, and one or two essay questions.
- **Electronic device policy:** During lectures, laptops and cell phones are permitted provided that they do not cause a disturbance. Disruptive students will be asked to leave. The use of audio recorders is not allowed.
- Exams are governed by the University's academic honesty policy. Cheating results in a zero score.
- No student may leave a Midterm (Final) Exam until 30 (45) minutes have elapsed. No student may enter an exam after anyone has left.
- Students must use their MasonLive email to receive any important information about this class. Check your email regularly.
- **Elastic Clause:** I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the course as needed.

Additional Information

Disability Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Academic Honesty: Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.