

University of Colorado at Boulder  
Department of Economics

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Economics 4231  
Syllabus and Schedule  
29 December 2013

Welcome. I am Prof. Jeffrey S. Zax. This is Economics 4231, Applied Economic Analysis and Public Policy.

Course description:

This course applies economic analysis to current issues of public policy in the State of Colorado. It begins with an examination of the structure and procedures of the Colorado General Assembly (the official name of the Colorado State legislature). It continues with parallel discussions of the budget and

apply the implications of that literature through briefing papers, in-class presentations and testimony at legislative hearings. The semester will conclude with a cooperative project in which we rate the economic content of the bills considered during the session, and distribute these ratings to the Assembly and the public.

This course explores the challenges of integrating informed economic analysis into the public arena to the many and

of the state's economic future.

students who will be active in public policy subsequent to graduation, either through their employment or as citizens. This course should also be of benefit to the State of Colorado, because it should improve the quality and consistency of economic analysis available to the General Assembly.

This course will meet on Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. until 6

and between 200 p.m. and 300 p.m. on Thursdays in Economics 111, my office. Appointments may be made for meetings at other times, if these are inconvenient. Course information will be posted regularly on Desire2Learn. Notifications will be posted there as well, and sent via campus email. It is your responsibility to monitor both.

Course prerequisites

sites will be enforced. In addition, enrollment requires my permission. If you wish to enroll, contact me at the email address above.

accepted and the associated oral presentation has occurred in class. Any exceptions to this policy must be granted by me in advance of testimony.

Excuses for course requirements will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances. If granted, the excused points will be reallocated to subsequent requirements. The course as a whole is valued at 100 points. The score attained b

- Rosen and Oyer, chapters 3, 4  
Discussion of Assembly calendar and individual bills
- 13 February Normative public finance II  
Readings
- Rosen and Oyer, chapters 5, 8  
Discussion of Assembly calendar and individual bills
- 20 February Taxation and positive local public finance  
Readings
- Rosen and Oyer, chapters 14-16  
Discussion of Assembly calendar and individual bills
- Assignment
- First paper due today
- 27 February Taxation and positive local public finance  
Readings
- Rosen and Oyer, chapters 7, 9, 10, 13  
Discussion of Assembly calendar and individual bills
- 6 March Government structure and legislatures  
Readings
- Rosen and Oyer, chapters 6, 22
- Assignment
- Second paper due today
- Discussion of Assembly calendar and individual bills
- 13 March Mid-term examination on lecture and reading material
- 20 March Assembly scorecard and discussion of individual bills  
Readings
- The website of the Colorado General Assembly:  
[http://www.leg.state.co.us/](http://www.leg.state.co.us)
- Assignment
- Third paper due today
- 3 April Assembly scorecard and discussion of individual bills  
Readings
- The website of the Colorado General Assembly:  
[http://www.leg.state.co.us/](http://www.leg.state.co.us)
- 10 April Assembly scorecard and discussion of individual bills  
Readings
- The website of the Colorado General Assembly:  
[http://www.leg.state.co.us/](http://www.leg.state.co.us)
- Assignment
- Fourth paper due today
- 17 April Assembly scorecard and discussion of individual bills  
Readings

- The website of the Colorado General Assembly:  
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/>
- 24 April      Assembly scorecard and discussion of individual bills  
Readings
  - The website of the Colorado General Assembly:  
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/>
- 1 May         Assembly scorecard and discussion of individual bills  
Readings
  - The website of the Colorado General Assembly:  
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/>
- 3 May         Final examination: 7:30p.m.-10:00p.m.

University policies:

The University adheres to the standards for student privacy rights and requirements as stipulated in the Federal Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. Campus policy regarding disabilities requires that faculty adhere to the recommendations of Disability Services. In addition, campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to rea

in which students express opinions<sup>4</sup> I am happy to discuss any issues of individual or group treatment in office hours or by appointment.

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to this institution's policy regarding academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior and assistance to acts of academic dishonesty are examples of behaviors that violate this policy. Ordinarily, a student engaged in any act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council. Depending on its findings, students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to non-academic sanctions, including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion.<sup>5</sup>