

University

class, 19 January, without first obtaining an excuse from me. I will hold regular office hours between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and between 2:00p.m. and 3:00p.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:

This course requires previous completion of Economics 3070, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory and Economics 3080, Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, or their equivalents. These prerequisites will ordinarily be enforced. If you have questions in this regard, contact me at the email address above.

Course requirements:

Performance in this course will be judged on the basis of six instruments. For 80 points, or 80% of the course, each student will be responsible for choosing four bills before the Colorado General Assembly during the course of the semester. Each bill can be chosen by no more than one student. The basic assignment for each of the bills is as follows:

The second and third components of the assignment for each bill can be undertaken only if the final draft of the paper attains a grade of at least 6 points out of 8. If the final draft does not attain this standard, the grades for the second and third components will both be zero.

The second component of each bill assignment will consist of confirmed distribution of the briefing paper to appropriate members of the General Assembly. I must approve each paper for distribution. Distribution should occur via email, with myself as one of the recipients. Papers must be distributed after the receipt of approval, and within five days of that receipt in order to receive credit. Each distribution will be worth 2 points, or 2% of the final grade.

The third component of each bill assignment will consist of a testimony presentation. This presentation will condense the associated briefing paper into a three-minute oral presentation. This presentation will take place in class. Each of these presentations will be worth 5 points, or 5% of the final grade. Presentations should ordinarily follow the submission of final paper drafts. If the General Assembly schedules for the bills in question demands otherwise, you must receive permission from me in advance.

In addition to the basic assignment associated with each bill, students will be required to present verbal testimony in person to the General Assembly. As a consequence of the difficulty of coordinating Assembly and student schedules, this requirement will apply to any two of the four bills analyzed by each student. The accomplishment of each instance of verbal testimony will be worth 10 points, or 10% of the final grade.

Students must receive explicit approval from me before they may testify for course credit. Ordinarily, approval is granted only if the associated briefing paper has already been accepted, the associated oral presentation has occurred in class and has attained a grade of at least 3.5 out of 5 points. Any exceptions to this policy must be granted by me in advance of testimony.

The fifth graded instrument will be a mid-term legislative report card, to which all students will contribute. Each student will be assigned a share of the current Assembly bills for the purpose of evaluating their suitability as objects of government action. We will compile the evaluations of all students into a single document for distribution. Each student's contribution will be worth 10 points, or 10% of the final grade. The legislative report card will be due on 16 March.

The sixth graded instrument is the final examination. It will examine the material in the formal lectures and readings, as well as the experience of interacting with the Assembly. It will be worth 10 points, or 10% of the final grade. It is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 5 May from 1:30p.m.-4:00p.m.¹

¹ University policies regarding multiple final examinations on the same day are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy>.

2 February	Normative public finance I: Public goods and externalities Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapters 4, 5
9 February	Two central issues: Job creation and taxation Readings: • To be announced
16 February	Normative public finance I: Public goods and externalities Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapters 4, 5 Assignment: • First paper due today
23 February	Normative public finance I: Public goods and externalities Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapters 4-5
2 March	Normative public finance II: Cost-benefit analysis Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapter 8
9 March	Taxation Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapters 14-16 Assignment: • Second paper due today
16 March	Taxation Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapters 14-16 Assignment: • Assembly scorecard due today
23 March	Taxation Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapters 14-16
6 April	Education Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapter 7 Assignment: • Third paper due today
13 April	Health care Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapters 9, 10
20 April	Social welfare Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapter 13
27 April	Government structure and legislatures Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapters 6, 22 Assignment: • Fourth paper due today
4 May	Government structure and legislatures Readings: • Rosen and Gayer, chapters 6, 22

11 May

Final examination: 1:30p.m.-4:00p.m.

University policies:

The University adheres to the standards fo

examples of behaviors that violate this policy. Ordinarily, a student engaged in any act of academic dishonest will receive a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Office. 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.⁶