



KEAN

Course Information

Course Title: ECONOMIC ISSUES IN PUBLIC ADM

Course Number and Section: PA 5021 01

Campus Location: KEAN UNIVERSITY UNION

Semester: 22/FA

Meeting Days and Times: TH 07:30PM - 10:15PM

Meeting Location: BLDG: HYN ROOM: 406

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Joao V. Guedes-Neto

Office Location: Hynes Hall, 504I

Office Hours: Tuesday (2:00-3:00 pm); Wednesday (4:30-6:30 pm); Thursday (4:30-6:30 pm)

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Course Description

The objective of this course is to provide a graduate level foundation and overview of macroeconomics and fiscal policies as they relate to public policy and fiscal management in public administration; policy analysis; health planning; public safety and non-profit management.

Course Level Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Use microeconomic theory for in analyzing and formulating public policy.

- Learn the essential theory of macroeconomics.
- Explain those elements of theory most relevant to courses in public economics and public policy in such programs as public administration, policy analysis, health planning, environmental management, urban affairs, and urban planning.
- Describe the basic fiscal concepts with an emphasis on their philosophical underpinnings and policy uses.
- Discuss the tax expenditure concept, benefit cost analysis with numerical examples, substantial discussions of the origins and philosophical implications of economic man as a behavioral model, and public choice.

Instructional Technique(s)

This course takes place in person on campus. This course is taught using a 15 Unit schedule and will use a standard of 1,000 total points. The units are divided into two blocks: (A) Basic Concepts and (B) Applications. In the first, students learn about the core concepts of economics; in the second, the classes are dedicated to applying these concepts to public policy and administration. Students will find commonly graded and non-graded learning activities present throughout the course. Each unit will include: (1) Readings; (2) Lecture; (3) Discussions; (4) Group Work; and (5) Presentations.

Required Textbooks and Materials



Principles of Economics 2e

9781947172364

Steven A. Greenlaw, David Shapiro, Timothy Taylor

2017-10-11

OER Link: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/191>

Your [Campus bookstore](#) offers a Price Match guarantee. If you find our class texts or access codes cheaper at Booksmart, Barnes & Noble, or Amazon the campus bookstore will match the price at the time of purchase, or for up to 7 days after purchase. Search your course materials by the ISBN provided in this syllabus to assure that your price match is acceptable.

Topics and Assignments

Week/Unit	Topics	Assignments Due
W1: 09/01	Introduction to Economics	Read PoE chapters 1 and 2
W2: 09/08	Principles of Microeconomics I	Read PoE chapters 3 and 4
W3: 09/15	Principles of Microeconomics II	Read PoE chapters 8 and 9
W4: 09/22	Principles of Macroeconomics I	Read PoE chapters 19 and 20
W5: 09/29	Principles of Macroeconomics II	Read PoE chapters 21 and 22
W6: 10/06	The Knowledge Problem	Read Hayek and Niskanen
W7: 10/13	Public Choice <i>Review for the exam</i>	Read Downs and Tullock <i>Bring questions for the review</i>
W8: 10/20	GA: Mid-term Exam	GA: Prepare for the exam
W9: 10/27	Taxation <i>Review of the exam</i> <i>Definition of groups</i>	Read Ebdon and Levine-Schayowitz <i>Choose group for Final Project</i>
W10: 11/03	Inequality	Read Piketty
W11: 11/10	Intergenerational Poverty	Read Morán, Sen, and Myers
W12: 11/17	Privatization	Read Sanger GA: Submit Bonus Activity
W-: 11/23	Thanksgiving Recess	No class
W13: 12/01	Crime	Read Skarbek and Gentil-Fernandes
W14: 12/08	Cities <i>Writing session</i>	Read Wachter and Zeuli, Glaeser, and Zeuli
W15: 12/14	GA: Final Project	GA: Elevator Pitch GA: Submit White Paper

Assessment

Course Grade Breakdown:

Date/Deadline	Assessment	Maximum Grade
Every class	Participation in class	300 points
W8: 10/20	Mid-term exam	300 points
W12: 11/17	Bonus activity (<i>optional</i>)	100 points (<i>extra</i>)
W15: 12/14	White Paper	200 points

Assessments:

- **Participation [300 points; divided across all classes]**

I will award a participation grade for each class. The final participation grade is the sum of the grade awarded in each class. Please, notice that attendance is not the same as participation.

You are expected to participate in every class by asking questions, engaging in the discussions by expressing your opinion, and relating the content of the readings to in-class debates.

To be prepared for participating, you must read the assigned materials before the class. This will allow you to better understand the content discussed in class and to participate in all the activities. Furthermore, this will help you prepare for the assignments.

- **Mid-term exam [300 points; Week 8 (10/20)]**

I will present a list of “Key Terms” in every class of the first block. I will speak about them during the lectures. You are responsible for taking notes. If you have questions about the Key Terms, clarify them during the class to keep good notes.

Good notes include: (1) the Key Term’s meaning; (2) its relevance to economics; and (3) one example of how the Key Term can be applied in the study of public policy and administration.

In the mid-term exam, I will present a list of 10 Key Terms. You will select 6 Key Terms from this list and explain each in writing with its meaning, relevance, and application. You will not be able to consult your notes or any other material during the mid-term exam.

The exam takes place on 10/20, begins at 7:30 pm, and ends at 9:00 pm.

- **Bonus Activity [100 extra points; Week 12 (11/17)]**

This is an opportunity to earn 100 extra points. You will listen to any episode of the EconTalk podcast. The episodes are available at <https://www.econtalk.org/> and on platforms like Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

Episodes are interviews conducted by Professor Russ Roberts (Stanford University) with leading scholars and entrepreneurs. Some of the authors included in this syllabus have already been interviewed at Econ Talk, for instance, Thomas Piketty and David Skarbek. Others are constantly mentioned in the episodes. You can but do not have to pick an episode directly related to the readings.

After listening to the episode, you will write a 2-page essay in which you (1) summarize the interviewee’s viewpoints; (2) relates the topic and these views to some Key Terms of this course; and

(3) argue why you agree or disagree with the interviewee. Please, use font Times New Roman size 12, line spacing of 1.5, and 1-inch margins.

The essay is due on Canvas on 11/17 before 7:30 pm.

- **Final Project: White Paper [200 points; Week 15 (12/14)]**

This is a group assignment. Groups may consist of 2 or 3 students. You must inform me of the members of your group by **10/27 (Week 9)**; otherwise, I will assign you to a group.

For this assignment, you (i.e., your group) will write a 10-page White Paper. You will select one policy area of your preference (for example public health, education, transportation, energy, immigration, etc.) and one administrative level (e.g., federal, state, county). In your written report, you will analyze this policy area focusing on the administrative level of your choice (for example, higher education policy in the state of New Jersey). The White Paper must include:

1. An executive summary of up to 300 words with your main arguments and recommendations;
2. A literature review of the topic;
3. A description of the current status of this policy area at the selected administrative level;
4. The identification of problems and opportunities based on the Key Terms discussed in the first part of our course;
5. A policy recommendation. Make sure to use Key Terms to discuss the limitations of your policy recommendation and why this is still better than alternative options.

Please, use font Times New Roman size 12, line spacing of 1.5, and 1-inch margins. You are limited to 10 pages.

Do not forget to include a final section for References. I recommend using the APA Style (see more information at <https://libguides.kean.edu/citationstyles>). The References are not included in the 10-page limit.

The essay is due on Canvas on 12/14 before 7:30 pm.

- **Final Project: Elevator Pitch [200 points; Week 15 (12/14)]**

Your group will present the white paper in 5 minutes (I will be very strict with the time constraint). All group members must speak during the presentation. The presentation will follow the format of an elevator pitch. In most real settings, you will not have much time to present your ideas. It requires learning how to be very concise. If you choose to use PowerPoint, you can only use 1 slide.

I recommend reading Carmine Gallo's article (Harvard Business Review) on preparing a good elevator pitch: <https://hbr.org/2018/10/the-art-of-the-elevator-pitch>.

Your presentation must be based on your White Paper and must include:

1. The problem your recommendation wants to solve (be specific about the policy area and administrative level);
2. Your policy recommendation; and
3. How your policy recommendation is mindful of economic aspects (including relevant Key Terms).

Your group will present your elevator pitch during class on 12/14. All group members must be present.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Points	Letter Grade	Points
A	940-1,000	C+	770-799
A-	900-939	C	740-769
B+	870-899	C-	700-739
B	840-869	D	600-699
B-	800-839	F	599 and below

Reading Assignments

- **Week 1: Introduction to Economics**

Steven A. Greenlaw, David Shapiro, Timothy Taylor. 2017. *Principles of Economics*. 2nd edition. Chapters 1 and 2.

- **Week 2: Principles of Microeconomics I**

Steven A. Greenlaw, David Shapiro, Timothy Taylor. 2017. *Principles of Economics*. 2nd edition. Chapters 3 and 4.

- **Week 3: Principles of Microeconomics II**

Steven A. Greenlaw, David Shapiro, Timothy Taylor. 2017. *Principles of Economics*. 2nd edition. Chapters 8 and 9.

- **Week 4: Principles of Macroeconomics I**

Steven A. Greenlaw, David Shapiro, Timothy Taylor. 2017. *Principles of Economics*. 2nd edition. Chapters 19 and 20.

- **Week 5: Principles of Macroeconomics II**

Steven A. Greenlaw, David Shapiro, Timothy Taylor. 2017. *Principles of Economics*. 2nd edition. Chapters 21 and 22.

- **Week 6: The Knowledge Problem**

Hayek, Friedrich. 1945. The Use of Knowledge in Society. *The American Economic Review*, n. 4, vol. 35, pp. 519-530.

Niskanen, William. 2008. Reflections of a Political Economist: Selected Articles on Government Policies and Political Processes. Chapter 20 (pp. 207-219).

- **Week 7: Public Choice**

Downs, Anthony. 1964. Inside Bureaucracy, p. 1-31.

Tullock, Gordon; Seldon, Arthur; Brady, Gordon. Government Failure: A Primer in Public Choice.

Chapter 1 (pp. 3-16) and

Chapter 5 (pp. 52-62).

- **Week 8: Mid-term exam (no readings)**

- **Week 9: Taxation**

Robbins, Donijo. 2005. Handbook of Public Sector Economics.

Chapter 7 by C. Ebdon (pp. 235-269); and

Chapter 14 by H. Levine-Schayowitz (pp. 523-560).

- **Week 10: Inequality**

Piketty, Thomas. 2015. The Economics of Inequality.

Introduction (pp. 1-25) and

Chapter 4 (pp. 100-121).

- **Week 11: Intergenerational Poverty**

Morán, Ricardo. 2003. Escaping the Poverty Trap: Investing in Children in Latin America.

Chapter 1 (pp. 1-4);

Part One Summary (pp. 7-14);

Part Two Summary (pp. 61-73);

The Role of Early Childhood Investment in Development by A. Sen (pp. 75-80); and
How to Invest in Early Childhood Care and Development by R. Myers (pp. 97-107).

- **Week 12: Privatization**

Sanger, Mary. 2004. The Welfare Marketplace: Privatization and Welfare Reform.

Chapter 1 (pp. 1-8);

Chapter 2 (pp. 9-27); and

Chapter 3 (pp. 28-48).

- **Thanksgiving Recess (no readings)**

- **Week 13: Crime**

Skarbek, David. 2011. Governance and Prison Gangs. American Political Science Review, vol. 104, no. 4, pp. 702-716.

Gentil-Fernandes, Leonardo; Guedes-Neto, Joao; Incio, Jose. 2022. From Drug Lords to Police State: The Effects of Order Transition on Local Economies. Comparative Political Studies, forthcoming, pp. 1-37.

- **Week 14: Cities**

Wachter, Susan; Zeuli, Kimberly. 2013. Revitalizing American Cities.

Introduction (pp. 1-4);

Chapter 1 by E. Glaeser (pp. 7-25); and

Chapter 6 by K. Zeuli (pp. 105-124).

- **Week 15: Final project (no readings)**

Policies specific to this course

- **Nature of times:**

This course takes place as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Understandably, some students may face additional difficulties. If you believe you will face or are facing a challenge that is not covered by this syllabus, contact me as soon as possible to discuss the matter. Whereas I will not be able to

solve some issues, I will be mindful of the situation and try to provide solutions through a case-by-case analysis.

- **Make-up exams:**

If you have any case of verified emergency or documented medical excuse that forces missing an exam and you would like to have a make-up exam, you must send me by e-mail the documented evidence at least 72 hours before the exam. The make-up exam will take place before the official exam. If the emergency occurs in the 72 hours preceding the exam, you should contact me up to 24 hours after the exam to discuss the situation.

- **Late essay:**

Late essays will be penalized with 5% of the grade per day, including weekends and holidays, except in the case of a verified emergency or documented medical excuse.

This policy does not apply to the Bonus Activity. Extra assignments will not be accepted after the deadline.

- **Re-grading policy:**

You have 7 days after your graded work is returned to request a re-grade. You should send me by e-mail a written statement of at least 150 words explaining why you think your work deserves to be re-graded. Remember that after re-evaluating your work, your grade may remain unchanged or could be adjusted to higher or lower.

- **Excused absence:**

If you have any case of verified emergency or documented medical excuse that forces missing one or more classes and you would like to have your absence excused, you must send me by e-mail the documented evidence up to 48 hours after the class.

- **Diversity as a core element of this class:**

We are diverse in many ways. It refers to the ways we identify, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, national origin, language, sex, gender, disability, age, faith, ideology, belief, and veteran status. Students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives should be well-served by this course. The diversity that students bring to this class must be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. We must treat every individual with respect.

Unfortunately, incidents of bias or discrimination do occur, whether intentional or unintentional. This may include multiple interactions, such as in-class discussions. Furthermore, at least part of the readings may be restricted to the views and experiences of the subset of voices responsible for them. You are encouraged to contact me (anonymously or not) to share your concerns and suggestions. Furthermore, I strongly suggest that you make yourself familiar with all the resources made available

by Kean University through its Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (<https://www.kean.edu/diversity-equity-inclusion>).

Important Dates

For important dates, please consult the Academic Calendar via the following link: <https://www.kean.edu/offices/registrars-office/academic-calendar>

Technical Requirements (if any)

1. *Make sure you have Microsoft Office installed on your computer. You may be eligible for a free MS Office Software Student Edition. You are required to create an account and provide a valid Kean University ID to obtain access to the software applications. To start the application process, go to the [Office 365 Education website](#).*
2. *Download the latest versions of the following:*
 - *Adobe Acrobat Reader*
 - *Java JRE*

Academic Early Alert

Academic Early Alert information will be provided to students by the instructor via Advise. Please see the current [Undergraduate or Graduate Catalog](#) for more information.

Course Policies

Provide Course Policies, if necessary, such as participation, etc. in addition to the following:

Class Recordings (Live Sessions/Collaborate)- if applicable

In this class software may be used to record live class discussions. As a student in this class, your participation in live class discussions will be recorded. These recordings will be made available only to students enrolled in the class, to assist those who cannot attend the live session or to serve as a resource for those who would like to review content that was presented. All recordings will become unavailable to students in the class when the course is closed.

Students are not permitted to record (or download) the course experience. If a recording of the course is required for accommodation purposes students must make those arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services. Students found to have recorded (or downloaded) course experiences without authorization are subject to review by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Privacy Statement

Assuring privacy among faculty and students engaged in online instructional activities helps promote open and robust conversations and mitigates concerns that comments made within the context of the class will be shared beyond the classroom. As such, recordings of instructional activities occurring in online classes may be used solely for internal class purposes by the faculty member and students registered for the course, and only during the period in which the course is offered.

Policies

Important University Policies and Information

All students and faculty should familiarize themselves with the current health and safety protocols available via this link: <https://www.kean.edu/health-safety-protocols>

Students are responsible to review and understand the University Academic Integrity Policy available via the following link: <https://www.kean.edu/academic-integrity>

Instructors must indicate on the syllabus and/or individual assignment if the use of Kean University academic support services ([Tutoring and/or Writing Center](#)) is permitted for take home assignments/exams.

Students should review the Student Code of Conduct, as it discusses expectations of appropriate conduct in the classroom: <https://www.kean.edu/offices/community-standards-and-student-conduct/student-code-conduct>

Students are strongly encouraged to register for the University's emergency notification system (<http://www.kean.edu/campusalert>) in order to be informed of campus emergencies, weather notices, and other announcements. Kean Ocean students would sign up via the following link: <https://ocean.sendwordnow.com/LicensePage.aspx>

All students must have a valid Kean email account. For those who do not already have one, forms are available on-line at <https://www.kean.edu/offices/computer-and-information-services/ocis-forms> click on E-mail Account Request Form.

Health and Safety Protocols/COVID Reporting

Please view the university's current [health and safety protocols](#).

[COVID Policies, Expectations, and Reporting](#)

Students who test positive for COVID-19 should report their test results via this [form](#)

Employees who test positive for COVID-19 should report the result to Human Resources at hrvax@kean.edu. The university will follow appropriate state and federal guidelines on contact tracing.

Support Services

Kean University offers several support services for students. For more information and for any updates, please visit the services' Kean University webpage.

- [Academic Support](#)
- [Advising Support](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Social Work Support](#)
- [Technology Support](#)
- [Wellness Support](#)

Diversity & Non-Discrimination Statement:

Kean University is committed to establishing and maintaining a diverse campus community through inclusive excellence and equal opportunity. Kean's commitment to access and equity is designed to prepare each graduate to not only thrive, but climb higher in a diverse world. As an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution we work to support a campus-wide agenda to foster a community that both values and promotes the diversity and equity of all students, faculty, staff, administrators, and beyond. Kean adheres to the [New Jersey State Policy Prohibiting Discrimination in the Workplace](#); for more information on Kean's non-discrimination policy and procedures, and protected categories under the policy, please visit: <https://www.kean.edu/offices/affirmative-action>.

Americans with Disabilities Statement

Students with documented disabilities who may need instructional accommodations or special arrangements in the event of an evacuation should notify the instructor as soon as possible and no later than the second week of the term. Students may also contact The Office of Accessibility Services

by phone at (908) 291-3137 or email accessibilityservices@kean.edu to discuss special needs, accommodations and arrangements.

Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities. Sexual harassment in any form will not be tolerated at Kean University. Sexual harassment by students should be reported to the Office of Affirmative Action Programs, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs or the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct immediately. Information about the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy may be found at the following: <https://www.kean.edu/offices/policies/sexual-misconduct-policy>.

For more information on Title IX, please see this [link](#).