

Syllabus
Economics 440/540: Public Economics.
Professor Christopher Ellis.
Fall 2013

This is an upper division/masters course in Public Economics. We shall be exploring four basic topics

- (1) Competitive Equilibrium and Welfare.
- (2) Public Goods and Public Choice.
- (3) Externalities and Solutions.
- (4) Optimal Taxation

Texts:

It is not necessary to buy a text as the notes posted on blackboard should suffice. However, for background reading Public Finance, by Harvey S. Rosen or the newer version by Rosen and Gayer is recommended. We shall cover chapters 1-7. For more advanced material Microeconomic Analysis by Hal Varian, Microeconomic Theory by Mas-Colell, Whinston and Green, and The Theory of Externalities, Public Goods and Club Goods by Cornes and Sandler, are helpful reading.

Lecture Notes: On-line lecture notes in PDF format and templates for the diagrams to be used in class are available on Blackboard. The structure of the course is that laid out in the notes.

Assessment: There will be two midterms and a final exam. The first midterm will be worth 20% of the credit, the second will be worth 30% and a final exam worth 50%. 540 students will be graded on a scale 1/2 a grade harder than 440 students.

Class Schedule: Every Tuesday and Thursday 10-11.20 in 242 Gerlinger.

Office Hours: Every Tuesday and Thursday 15.30-16.30.

Office Location: 540 PLC.

Contact Information: Phone # 346-4657, email cjellis@uoregon.edu.

Midterm Exams: Thursday October 24th and Thursday November 14th

Final Exam: 8.00-10.00 Monday December 9th

Prerequisites: Econ. 311, 320

Note: I am allergic to fragrances. Please refrain from wearing perfumes colognes etc to class or office hours, as this seriously impairs my abilities to provide you with a good educational experience.