

ECON 179 -- SYLLABUS (WINTER 2005)

Foster, UCSD, April 24, 2008

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours

- Carroll B. Foster, Ph.D. (Instructor) Telephone: (858) 534-7133
Office hours: MWF, 12-1 pm, ECON 110C Email: <cfoster@econ.ucsd.edu>
- G. Monokroussos (TA) T, 8³⁰-9³⁰ am ECON 117 <gmonokro@econ.ucsd.edu.>
- Augusto Nieto (TA) T, 1-2 pm SEQ 238 <anieto@econ.ucsd.edu>

Course Information

- Decisions in the Public Sector (519160) – MWF, 11-11⁵⁰ am, CENTER 212
- Description: public economics for Management Science majors; covers welfare economics, public choice, bureaucracy, and program evaluation (CBA).
- Prerequisites: Ec 100A-B or Ec 170A-B.
- Course webpage: www.econ.ucsd.edu (click link “*Courses/webpages & office hours*”)

Books and Materials

- Stiglitz, *Economics of the Public Sector* (3rd ed.) [Bookstore]
- Foster, [Ec 179 Lecture Notes](#) [Course webpage]

Calendar

- Change grade option or drop w/o “W” thru 28 JAN.
- Drop w/o “F” thru 4 MAR.
- Holidays: M, 17 JAN (MLK); M, 21 FEB (President’s Day).
- Midterm: Friday, 18 FEB, in class.
- Article review due: Friday, 4 MAR.
- Final: Thursday, 17 MAR, 11³⁰-2³⁰ pm, CENTER 212 (or _____)

Examinations and Grading

Midterm = 50 points; cumulative/comprehensive final = 150 points; article review = 25 points.¹ Exams open book/notes. Regrade period = 1 week after papers returned. No rescheduled/make-up exams. Cheating = F plus penalty imposed by dean.²

Grade Curve	
Gr	Ranking
A±	Top 20%
B±	High 30%
C±	Mid 40%
D/F	Low 10%

OUTLINE/READING LIST

PS	PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMICS	Ch. 1-6
PC	PUBLIC CHOICE & DEMOCRACY	Ch. 7-9
FF	FISCAL FEDERALISM	Ch. 26
MB	MANAGEMENT & BUDGETING	Ch. 28
CB	COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS	Ch. 11

¹ You cannot receive a passing grade in this course if you do not submit an acceptable article review on time.

² I give multiple versions of tests. If you have the right answers for some other version, you are busted.

ARTICLE REVIEW

You are to review a scholarly (as opposed to magazine or newspaper) article on some public sector economic or management issue:

- Article must be in a **SCHOLARLY** journal;
- Article must be on a subject related to **THIS COURSE**;
- Your choice **MUST BE APPROVED BY ME**.

Where do you Start?

1. Go to the main or other library and pull a recent volume (since 1985) of one of the journals listed on the last page off the shelf. Skim the table of contents looking for something on a subject both related to this course and of interest to you.
2. Read the article's introduction and conclusion or summary. Then reread the whole thing. If you can't follow the technical details, see me (with a copy of the article in hand) or choose another article.
3. When you have chosen one or more articles, bring the article title, author, journal, and subject to me for approval. Once I approve the article, you may begin writing your review.

How do you Write a Review?

1. Use no cover sheet or binder of any kind. At the top of the first page:
 - Author name(s) -- last name first
 - "Article Title" (in quotation marks)
 - *Journal Name*, Volume number, date of publication, article page numbers
 - Econ 179 Article Review (Winter 2005)
 - Your Name and Student ID
2. Summarize the issue or questions being dealt with. Relate your summary to other subject material studied in this course.
3. Describe the authors' mode of analysis. What data were used (if any), and from what source? What type of mathematical modeling was employed? What statistical techniques (descriptive, correlation, regression, nonparametric) were used? Use diagrams if necessary.
4. What conclusions were reached?
5. What flaws in the analysis or conclusions do you feel were apparent? Cite evidence of the author's political or other bias (if any).
6. Finish off with your own opinions, experience or ideas on the subject. This isn't a term paper; you can have fun.

Format of the Article Review

1. Typed or computer printed only; double-spaced with 1" margins all around.
2. About 3 pages long (2 minimum, 4 absolute maximum).
3. Stapled, but with **NO** cover page, binder, or folder.
4. Put short quotes in "quotation marks." Long quotes (more than 3 lines) should be indented right and left and single-spaced, or else avoided altogether (paraphrase instead).

Evaluation

You will be graded on formatting, grammar, spelling, syntax, organization, and quality of coverage. You lose 1/2 of the points if you turn the review in after the due date. Evidence of collaboration with other students costs you both all the points. So does plagiarism:

plagiarize v. 1. To steal and use (the ideas or writings of another) as one's own.³

LIST OF JOURNAL SOURCES

Most of these scholarly publications will have at least some articles on public sector decision making of one kind or another. BUT SEE ME WITH YOUR SPECIFIC ARTICLE FOR APPROVAL BEFORE YOU WRITE YOUR REVIEW.

American Economic Review
American Political Science Review
Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics
Applied Economics
Economic Inquiry
Economics and Politics
Fiscal Studies
Internat. Journal of Social Economics
Internat. Tax and Public Finance
Journal of Conflict Resolution
J. of Econ. Behavior and Organization
J. of Economic Issues
J. of Economic Perspectives
J. of Human Resources
J. of Law and Economics
J. of Law, Economics and Organization
J. of Policy Analysis and Management
J. of Public Economics
J. of Public Finance and Public Policy
J. of Regional Analysis and Policy
J. of Regional Science
J. of Regulatory Economics
J. of Socio-Economics
Managerial and Decision Economics
National Tax Journal
Public Choice
Public Budgeting and Finance
Public Finance
Social Choice and Welfare
Urban Studies

³ *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, Houghton Mifflin, 1969.