

PA 724 Economic Analysis for Public Policy and Administration

This is a hybrid course in which you will be expected to review lectures online, read the chapter and take short quizzes before coming to class. You will also be required to participate in online discussions and collaborative projects. Bring your questions when you come to class.

Meeting Times and Location:

June 6, June 8, June 15, June 22, July 6 at 5.45-9.45pm in DTC 677

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Anoshua Chaudhuri

Email: anoshua@sfsu.edu * preferred mode of contact

Office hours: June 6-July 6th 1-2pm in HSS 145 (no office hours on June 27) or via zoom conference by appointment

Class Page

Please check regularly for postings on the class page that can be accessed through ILearn. Go to <http://ileam.sfsu.edu>. log in with your student ID and PAC number and select PA 724 from your listed courses. Regular updates, handouts and grades will be posted here. Please speak with me if you have any difficulty accessing this information.

If you do not check your SFSU email address regularly, please make sure that the university email address assigned to you forwards to your current email address as I tend to communicate via the ileam mailing list which is linked to you SFSU email. You are responsible for making sure that you don't miss any announcements. A test email will be sent to you before the first class. If you do not receive it, please let me know during our first class meeting.

Course Objective

We will learn to use some basic microeconomic tools to analyze how markets work, when markets fail and what are possible government policy responses when markets fail. We will study the public policy making process and learn the principles which can help judge the effectiveness of various policy options facing government agencies. We will study applications and case studies related to tax policy, education and farm subsidies, rent control, minimum wage legislations, provision of public goods and welfare assistance, congestion, pollution and more. The class will mostly focus on microeconomics although we will spend a little bit of time discussing some key issues in macroeconomic policy, especially around economic growth, development and trade. We will not have time to cover monetary/fiscal policy.

Required Material:

Mankiw, Essentials of Economics. Cengage, 7th edition, ISBN: 0538453087 [Mankiw henceforth], can use older edition up to the 5th edition

AND

Roger Leroy Miller, Daniel K. Benjamin and Douglass North, The Economics of Public Issues. 19th edition, Pearson, 2016 (paperback), ISBN-10: 0-13-401897-4 [Miller henceforth]

AND

Sapling Learning Online Homework - 1 Sem Access (Software), Sapling Learning

Unless you are required to buy from the bookstore, you can buy Sapling homework software directly from their website, buy Mankiw e-book or hard copy from www.cengagebrain.com or from amazon or some other cheap textbook website. Mankiw textbook down to the 5th edition will be fine as the basic material has not changed much. I would like you to have a hard copy of the Miller textbook. Sapling access instructions are posted on iLearn as well as in the homework section below.

Course Schedule

1. JUNE 6th

- Introductions and Course information
- Principles of Economics
- Interdependence and Gains from trade
- Demand and Supply

Readings: Mankiw Chaps 1-4

Applications: Miller et al Chap 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 20

Form your project groups

Pick any Miller chapter for your group project

2. JUNE 8th

- Q&A about material covered so far
- Elasticity of Demand and Supply
- Supply, demand and government policies
- Group exercise

Readings: Mankiw Chaps 4-6

Applications: Miller et al Chap 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 20, 23

Directed Group assignment

Discuss project report

3. JUNE 15th

Quiz 1: Material covered so far

Q&A and discussion of Firm Behavior

- Production and Cost
- Perfect Competition
- Monopoly
- Oligopoly and Cartels

Directed Group discussion

Readings: Mankiw Chaps 12-14

Applications: Miller et al Chaps 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 27, 28

4. JUNE 22nd

Quiz 2: material from Firm theory

Q&A and Discussion of Market Failures and role of the public sector

- Evaluating Resource Allocation
- Role of Taxation
- Externalities
- Public goods

Group Check in about presentation outline and report

Readings: Mankiw Chaps 7. 8. 10. 11

Applications: Miller et al Chaps 1. 3. 5. 6. 14. 12. 15. 23. 24. 27

USE THE GAP WEEK TO WORK ON YOUR PRESENTATIONS AND PROJECT REPORT-
Draft presentation outline and report to be shared by June 29th.

5. JULY 6th

Quiz 3: material covered on July 23rd

Speed Presentations of project reports

Class Discussion on Looking outwards

- Role of international trade
- Measuring a nation's income, productivity and growth
- Production and Growth
- The Big Mac index
- Income Inequality

Readings: Mankiw Chap 9. 15. 17

Applications: Miller et al Chaps 4. 12. 13. 29. 30. 31

Grading

Quizzes: 15%

Participation in an Online Discussion: 10%

Online Homework: 40%

Group Presentation and Project report: 10%+25%=35%

Grading Scale (curved in advance)

$\geq 92\%$: A $\geq 70\%$: C

$\geq 90\%$: A- $\geq 60\%$: D

>=85%: B+ <60%:F
>=80%: B
>=75%: B-

Quizzes

You will have 3 in-class closed book quizzes. It will consist of a few short answer questions that will require drawing graphs and doing some basic mathematical calculations. You will write on the test so you don't need to bring blue books, etc. **Makeup quizzes will be given only under extraordinary and verifiable circumstances.**

Online Discussion

I would like each of you to post at least one reflection on a question or topic on the online discussion forum. Examples are questions that you are truly stuck on, answers to peer questions, reflections on chapters and relating them to the world around you. What is not acceptable is asking homework questions directly, providing answers to posted homework questions, rants about professors or peers, rants about the economy/policy/publicly elected officials. However thoughtful analysis on the economy or current policy is welcome. Please be respectful of each other! If you find yourself posting more than 3 posts, please give others a chance.

HW Assignment

You will be required to do weekly homework assignments. To access and set up online access to homeworks, follow the instructions given below:

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Please go to the Sapling Learning page at macmillanlearning.com and click **US Higher Ed** to log in or create an account. The following link includes detailed instructions on how to register for your course: <https://community.macmillan.com/docs/DOC-5972-sapling-learning-registering-for-courses>.

During sign up or throughout the term, if you have any technical problems or grading issues, please go to student support community, <https://community.macmillan.com/community/digital-product-support/college-students-support-community>. for assistance from Sapling's dedicated student support team. The Sapling support team is almost always more able (and faster) to resolve issues than your instructor.
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Presentation

I will let you pick two presentation partners during the first class. If you don't pick a partner, I will assign your presentation partners. Check your ILearn page to see who your partner is and communicate. I will set up group fomm for each group so you can communicate/track your work online and get my feedback. I will also assign the basic material I want you to present in class. This will be one of the Miller chapters that you choose. It will be up to you to add other interesting information (either from your work experience or a related case study or article you may have read). You will get 10 minutes and will be required to effectively present the material, your analysis and related information to the class using a PowerPoint presentation. You may use the board if you need to draw graphs, etc. Be prepared to answer questions from your fellow students who are also required to read the same basic material. You will be assessed on your understanding of the material, your ability to work as a team, collate and communicate all the

information and analysis in the most effective way, and your ability to lead a discussion. I will expect you to refer to concepts covered in class, additional examples from the real world that are related to the topic and some more thoughtful analysis. This exercise is meant to help you get over stage fright and learn to be an effective public speaker; remember the best place to start is in graduate school! Each person in the group is expected to participate equally. **I would like to see a draft outline of your presentation - please send it to me at least by June 29th.**

Project Report

I want you to summarize your presentation and additional research and jointly write a 5 page report, not including graphs and tables (*times new roman, one inch margin on all sides, double spaced, 11 font*). This report should include at the minimum:

1. A title for the project
2. A summary of the article that you read
3. Identification and explanation of the relevant economic concepts using graphs and charts as relevant.
4. A related current local/domestic/international policy in practice and a critique of the policy.

Your report is due on Ilearn (follow link and submit) no later than 3PM on July 7, 2016. You are welcome to send it in earlier but late assignments will not be accepted.

Class Policies

Expectations in the Classroom

Students are expected to attend all classes, be on time for class and stay for the entire length of class unless cleared with the professor in advance due to professional or other responsibilities elsewhere. Assignments are expected to be completed and to be turned in on time.

Academic Misconduct

Cheating and plagiarism are contrary to the mission of the university and are never tolerated. Students who display inappropriate conduct, including cheating and plagiarism, may be subject to disciplinary action as provided in Title 5, California Code of Regulations. Any student may be expelled, suspended, placed on probation, or given a lesser sanction for discipline problems. The Student Discipline Officer, housed in the Dean of Students Office, is responsible for administering the Student Disciplinary Procedures for the California State University and should be contacted for further information.

A Note on Plagiarism

Whenever words are taken directly from another author without quotation marks and direct attribution to the author, it constitutes plagiarism which is a serious and punishable offense at this university. Please ensure that your papers are written in your own words, that ideas and facts taken from others are clearly attributed to them, and that anything taken verbatim from another source is enclosed in quotation marks. Citations can take the form of footnotes or in-text references, but there should be a full bibliographic reference somewhere in the document. In the case of a direct quotation, the citation should include the page number where the quote was found as well. Direct quotes from another author should be used sparingly, and only when the point you are making is stated best by using someone else's words.

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The [Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC)] is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The [DPRC] is located in the [Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu). "
(<http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc>)

SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the [Dean of Students]. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact: [The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; <http://www.sfsu.edu/safeplace/>] [Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; <http://psyservs.sfsu.edu/>] For more information on your rights and available resources: <http://titleix.sfsu.edu/>