

## Economics 450 (F2023): Economics of Taxation (Government Finance: Revenue)

**Instructor:** Professor Terry Moon (Email: [tsmoon@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:tsmoon@mail.ubc.ca))

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course Schedule:** Mons & Weds 2:00 – 3:20 pm

### Course Description

- This course covers topics in public economics focused on the revenue side of the government budget: (1) Income Taxes & Labor Supply, (2) Savings & Retirement, (3) Capital and Corporate Taxes & Investment, (4) Dividend and Capital Gains Taxes & Stock Market, (5) Tax Enforcement and Evasion, and (6) International Tax Competition and Profit Shifting. Additionally, students will learn how innovation and competition policies shape the growth of our economy and challenges policymakers face to foster innovation and competition in the economy. The course will tightly integrate theoretical models with empirical applications to delve deeply into these topics.

### Grading:

Components	Weight
Problem Sets ( $\times 2$ )	10%
Mid-term Exam	50%
Research Proposal	30%
Quizzes ( $\times 5$ )	10%

**Readings:** There is no textbook for this course. Readings are from published journal articles and working papers.

**Problem Sets:** There will be two problem sets (each worth 5% of your grade) before the mid-term exam. Students may work in a group of two or three. Students working in a group must submit one solution with their group members' names on the top, and will receive the same grade. Students are highly encouraged to work on the problem sets on their own first, given that the exam will be similar (both in terms of format and types of questions) to problem sets.

**Mid-term Exam:** There will be a mid-term exam scheduled on 2023-11-08 during our regular class time (2:00 - 3:20 pm). Two review sessions will be held on November 1st and 6th in-class.

**Research Proposal:** Students will write a 5-page research proposal. Details of the requirements will be given in-class. Students may work in a group of two or three. Students working in a group must submit one research paper with their group members' names on the top, and will receive the same grade. The deadline for the proposal will be announced later.

**Quizzes:** Attendance is mandatory, but will not be recorded in each class. Instead, there will be five pop quizzes (each worth 2% of your grade) throughout the semester which will require students' attendance to receive the full marks. Essentially, everyone who attends all the classes will receive the full credits on all five quizzes.

**Participation:** While attendance is required, participation is strongly encouraged in each class. Plan on actively engaging in discussions, asking clarifying questions, and raising challenging questions regarding topics we'll discuss throughout the semester.

### Course Policies:

1. Important messages, assignment details and course content are available on the course website on Canvas: <http://www.canvas.ubc.ca/>

2. Any request for a re-grade must be submitted in writing, along with an explanation of why you think the grading was incorrect.
3. All teaching materials are copyright ©The Author(s) 2023. All rights reserved. Not to be copied, used, or revised without explicit written permission from the copyright owner. No rights in this syllabus or any other teaching materials used in this course are granted to UBC or to any other party.
4. We adhere to UBC policies on academic misconduct. These policies can be found at: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

**Missed and Late Assignments:** If you are going to miss an exam or turn an assignment in late and require a concession, you must notify me by email **before** it is due unless the concession relates to an unforeseeable emergency (e.g. a car accident on the way to campus). All formal academic concessions for assignments or the exam must be approved by arts advising. A missed exam with a formal academic concession has to be taken at a later date to receive the grade.

**Plagiarism:** Any plagiarized assignment will receive 0 credit and may be referred to the University for further disciplinary action (plagiarism on the final paper proposal will automatically be referred to the University). Ignorance is not an excuse. It is your responsibility to insure that any work handed in is your own work and complies with the University's policies on academic honesty and plagiarism as stated in the Academic Calendar. University sanctions for plagiarism can include a 1 year suspension (and associated delay of graduation) and a permanent note on your record. The following sites have detailed information on the University's academic honesty policies and helpful tips for avoiding plagiarism.

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoid-plagiarism/>  
<http://www.arts.ubc.ca/arts-students/plagiarism-avoided.html>  
<http://www.library.ubc.ca/clc/airc.html>  
<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,286,0,0#15620>

**UBC Policy Statement:** UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>)

**UBC Provost's Advisory for Students Outside Canada:** During this pandemic, the shift to on-line learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/supportresources/freedom-expression>

**Statement on Academic Honesty:** It is the policy of the VSE to report all violations of UBC's standards for academic integrity to the office of the Dean of Arts. You are personally responsible for knowing the behaviours that are considered a violation of UBC's policies for academic honesty found here:

<https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>. To help you understand these rules, every student in this course will complete a module on Avoiding Academic Misconduct in the first week of the term. Any student who violates the rules for academic conduct on submitted work will be given an automatic grade of zero on that component of the course. Further penalties may be levied by the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Those penalties might include a notation on your transcript indicating that you have committed an academic offence, failure of the course, and/or suspension from the university. You can see more on this process, including a complete list of annual academic discipline cases, here: <https://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/homepage/guides-and-resources/discipline/>. Speak to your instructor if you have any questions regarding the standard for academic integrity at UBC.

**VSE Policy Prohibiting the Hiring of Tutors:** The Vancouver School of Economics expressly prohibits any student from hiring a tutor/editor to assist with any portion of written work or academic research. Violation of this rule will be treated as academic misconduct, and the student will face the same penalties as described above. If at any point you feel in need of additional writing support, please speak with your instructor and/or arrange for a writing consultation with UBC's Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication (<https://writing.library.ubc.ca/>).

**Academic Concessions:** Students at UBC are granted academic concessions for graded work and exams that are missed due to unexpected circumstances. There are only three grounds for academic concessions: unexpected changes in personal responsibilities; medical circumstances; and compassionate grounds. A detailed description of each can be found here: <https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/academic-learning-resources/academic-concessions>. Situations that are expected (such as time constraints due to workload in other courses) or are predictable (such as being scheduled for paid work) are not grounds for academic concession. It is expected that requests for academic concession will be made before the due date for that graded work and/or the writing of the exam. Note that UBC policy does not allow for concessions to students who have missed work because they have registered for a course after the due date for that work. Students in the Faculty of Arts who require a concession should apply for a concession using this form: <https://students.air.arts.ubc.ca/academic-concession-form/>. Students in other Faculties should consult their Faculty website on academic concessions and consult with their instructor.

**Student Success:** UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious, spiritual and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here: <https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success/>.