

## Economics 490.11: Seminar in Applied Economics (Public Economics & Policy)

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

**Email:** You must include ECON 490 in the subject of your email to ensure a prompt reply.

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Scheduling:** The course will meet on Mondays & Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 3:20 pm in-person.

**Prerequisites:** This course is restricted to fourth year students with in a declared BA major Economics. Students must have successfully completed all of ECON 325 and ECON 326 and one of ECON 301 / 304 and ECON 302/ 305.

**Course Description** The main goal of this course is to help students write a research paper in public economics and policy. To do so, the course is divided into two parts: (1) it will expose students to a set of topics in public economics, and (2) it will provide them with econometric tools to analyze data and make statistical inference. Near the end, students will present their research papers in class. Possible topics include tax and innovation policies.

### Grading:

Component	Weight
Assignment (×3)	15%
1-1 Meeting (×3)	30%
Class Presentation	30%
Final Paper	25%

**Readings:** There is no textbook for this course.

**Assignments:** There will be three writing assignments in this course. Unless otherwise noted, each assignment is due at the designated time indicated in “instruction”. If a student cannot turn in an assignment on time due to serious illness, which qualifies an academic concession, then the student will have to turn it in at a later date approved by me. No make-up will result in zero for the grade (I will not allow any weight transfer towards other assignment or final paper).

**1-1 Meetings:** Students will share their research questions, empirical designs, and preliminary results during 1-1 meetings. Professor Moon will provide more details in class. If a student cannot present and the absence qualifies for an academic concession, then the student will have to schedule a make-up meeting at a later date approved by me. No make-up will result in zero for the grade (I will not allow any weight transfer towards other assignment or final paper).

**Class Presentation:** Students will present their research papers during the last two weeks of the course. Professor Moon will provide more details in class. If a student cannot present and the absence qualifies for an academic concession, then the student will have to schedule a make-up 1:1 presentation at a later date approved by me. No make-up will result in zero for the grade (I will not allow any weight transfer towards other assignment or final paper).

**Final Paper:** Students will submit their final paper near the end of the semester. The exact submission date will be announced later in class. Professor Moon will give more details on the format and the requirements for the final paper in class. If a student cannot turn in an assignment on time due to serious illness, which qualifies an academic concession, then the student will have to turn it in at a later date approved by me. No make-up will result in zero for the grade (I will not allow any weight transfer towards other assignment).

### Course Policies:

1. Important messages, assignment details and course content are available on the course website on Connect: <http://www.connect.ubc.ca/>
2. Any requests for extensions or make-up exams due to medical or other circumstances must be submitted, approved and administered through the dean’s office in the Faculty of Arts.

3. Any request for a re-grade must be submitted in writing, along with an explanation of why you think the grading was incorrect.
4. All teaching materials are copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. 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.
5. 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 a presentation or turn an assignment in late and require a concession, you must notify me (not the TA) 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 presentations or the final paper must be approved by arts advising. If an in class presentation assignment is missed, the weight of the assignment will be transferred to the final paper.

**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>)