Syllabus for Economics 330
Public Finance

Instructor: Lisa Cave                        Spring 2005
Lectures: Section: 12:50 - 2:00 pm. MW
Office: 207 A Economics & Business Dept.
Comenius Hall
Phone: 625-7101   Email: lcave@moravian.edu
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30 pm.
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 – 10:00 am. & 2:00 – 4:00 pm.
or by appointment

Required Text and Materials
• Public Finance: A Contemporary Application of Theory to Policy, by David Hyman. (8th (7th will also work) Edition. Thomson South-Western, 2005).

Attendance
There will be an attendance policy for this class. Attendance will be taken daily; after two unexcused absences, each absence subsequent absence will result in a 5 percentage point reduction in your final grade. The definition for attendance is that you arrive to class on-time and remain awake for the duration. If you are more than 10 minutes late for class, this will result in the same penalty as an unexcused absence.

Evaluation Criteria
Your final grade for the course is based on the distribution below

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<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>% of Course Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Group Project</td>
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<td>Individual Project</td>
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Class Participation
The class participation grade is based upon both attendance and participation in class discussions. Please bring your textbook to class. Chapters should be read before class and The Wall Street Journal should be read daily.

Exams
There will be one mid-semester exam and a final exam. Makeup exams are given only for excused absences or if the student has obtained the instructor's prior approval. Makeup exams are given only in EMERGENCY situations. If you fail to take an exam without prior approval you will receive ZERO as an exam grade.
**Returning Exams and Appeal Procedure**

Anyone feeling that a dispute exists after the grading of an exam may submit a written grievance. This grievance should identify the item in dispute and arguments supporting the student’s position. The appeal should be stapled to your exam and must be submitted within two class periods following the return of the assignment. The instructor agrees to return a written response to the student’s grievance within two class periods from receipt of the grievance.

**Group Project**

The purpose of this project is to help you apply theoretical material learned in class to the analysis of a current public policy issue. It will also provide you with an opportunity to improve your research and communication skills.

GROUPS: By the third week of the semester (January 26th) you must select (or be assigned to) a group of 4 students. There will be approximately 3 groups in the class.

TOPICS: Your group should select a current public policy issue to analyze. You must choose a topic by the fourth week of the semester (February 2nd), and must have the topic approved by me to avoid duplication by groups.

PAPER: Each group will write a paper on their chosen topic. The paper should be approximately 10 pages long, in a uniformed font, single spaced, and include a bibliography. The first draft of the paper is due March 23rd, the second draft of the paper is due April 13th, the final draft of the paper is due April 27th. **If you fail to turn in your paper on time, for any of the deadlines, you will receive a zero for your paper.** If you receive corrections on an earlier draft of the paper and fail to make these corrections on subsequent drafts you will lose 10 points per correction.

PRESENTATION: Each group will make a presentation of their findings to the class. The presentation should take 30 minutes. You may use Power Point, videos or overhead projectors. Group members must be present to receive credit for the presentation. Presentations will be made after the exam on dates to be announced in class.

GRADE: The grade will be determined by the quality of the analysis (55%), the quality of the paper (25%), and the quality of the presentation (20%). Each group member will receive the same grade, unless a member does not participate in the oral presentation, or if the group can show that a member has not made contributions to the group effort.

PLAGARISM: You must cite all relevant sources, please use an accepted method of citation. If you include a source in the bibliography you must cite this in the paper and all papers must include citations. Failure to meet any of these standards will result in a failing grade for the paper.
Individual Project
This assignment is designed to help you apply economic models to an analysis of current issues in public finance. During the semester you will select and analyze 5 articles from *The Wall Street Journal* or another newspaper or journal. Each article should discuss one of the public finance topics covered in class. Do not select more than one article per topic. The articles should be long enough to provide a foundation for analysis. The analysis must incorporate economic models discussed in class or found in the text.

The analysis should be brief (2-3 page, single-spaced). You should attach a copy of the article, and include the title, date, and source of the article on a separate title page. You should also put your name, the date, and the course name and number on the title page. The grade will be based on the analysis, quality of the brief, as well as upon the types of articles selected.

The papers are due on or before the beginning of class on April 20th. **If you fail to turn in your paper on time, you will receive a zero for your paper.** I STRONGLY suggest that you hand in a draft of the articles so that I can review them, and you can make corrections. You have up until two weeks before the final due date to hand in a draft. No drafts will be accepted after that time. If you decide not to turn in a draft and the clarity of the paper is poor your grade will be reduced 20 points (out of a possible 100 points).

Cheating
Cheating is in no way tolerated at Moravian College. Anyone caught cheating will be penalized severely. The full penalty will be determined in consultation with the Chairman of the Department of Economics. The minimum penalty is an "F" for the course. The student handbook pages 52-57 outlines your academic honesty responsibility and the penalties associated with dishonesty. Plagiarism is a form of cheating, if you do not cite sources correctly or if you use information that is not cited; this is plagiarism and will result in the same result as cheating.
### Course Calendar

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The course outline and exam dates are subject to change.