

# Bemidji State University

## ECON 3010: Public Economics

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Examines the rationale of public provision of selected goods and services and compares alternative tax structures in terms of their effects on the rest of the economy and their capacity for financing government expenditures. The effects of the political process on taxes and spending and selected topics in intergovernmental fiscal relations are also considered. Prerequisites: ECON 2000 and ECON 2100.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/21/1997 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction
  - A. The Nature of Public Economics
  - B. The Economic Meaning of Efficiency
2. Market Failure
  - A. Public Goods
  - B. Externalities
3. Government Decision Making
  - A. The Efficiency of Voting and Parties
  - B. The Role of Bureaucracy
4. Current Topics in Public Spending
  - A. Social Security
  - B. Income redistribution
5. Paying for It: Taxes and Debt
  - A. The Theory of Taxation
6. Overview of Selected Taxes
  - A. The Personal Income Tax
  - B. Government Borrowing

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. be able to understand why competitive markets may not be able to satisfy consumer preferences in the case of externalities and collective goods
2. be able to be familiar with alternative concepts of equity and be able to explain their influence of government spending and/or taxes
3. be able to understand how well voting can uncover the preferences of voters and how political parlog and interest groups may influence those outcomes
4. be able to understand the effects of taxes in influencing individual choice, including implications for tax increases
5. be able to explain the principles of benefit cost analysis and its use as a decision tool
6. be able to express an informed opinion concerning proposed changes in tax or expenditure policy.
7. master and apply the core analytical tools used by economists to evaluate government policy as it effects the allocation of resources and the distribution of income.
8. gain understanding and practice critical thinking by examining the value judgments which underlie economic policy analysis, and practice sharing and defending their own policy conclusions with their peers.
9. develop specialized skills to help them prepare for careers related to natural resources/environmentalpolicy, law or planning.

#### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

None

#### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

#### **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted