



RUTGERS-NEWARK

School of Public Affairs and Administration

Economics for Public Administration (20:834:541) [3 credits]

Course Description

This course deals with the application of basic microeconomic analysis to public policy problems. The primary goal of the course is to learn the basic principles of economic reasoning so that you can use those principles to help untangle the complex policy problems you will confront as policy makers, policy analysts, and administrators. The course differs from more traditional microeconomic courses in its emphasis on public policy applications.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand key economic concepts, models, and theories
- Apply economic reasoning to analyze and evaluate public policy issues in various areas, including but not limited to:
 - Labor policies
 - Housing policies
 - Environmental policies
 - Taxation policies

Requirements

Requirements will vary by instructor and may include:

- Class sessions
- Weekly discussions
- Ten problem sets
- Two exams

Schedule / Outline of Topics

- Week 1: Introduction and Overview
- Week 2: Demand, Supply and Market Equilibrium
- Week 3: Consumer & Producer Surplus and Elasticities
- Week 4: Public Sector Applications of Supply-and-Demand Model
- Week 5: Introduction to Consumer Choice
- Week 6: Applications of Consumer Theory
- Week 7: Midterm Exam
- Week 8: Production Theory
- Week 9: Short-Run Costs & Supply
- Week 11: Competitive Markets in the Long-Run
- Week 12: Market Failure
- Week 13: Externalities
- Week 14: Final Exam

Texts / Materials / Resources

The selection of textbooks and readings will vary by instructor. Listed below are some of the possible textbooks, materials, and resources an instructor may select for this course:

- Jeffrey M. Perloff, Microeconomics, Ninth Edition. Pearson Education, Inc.

This is a sample syllabus. Students should always obtain syllabi for their current courses from their professors.
(v.7/23/24)



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- In addition to textbook readings and lecture notes provided, a few supplementary articles will be assigned. These articles are mostly taken from leading journal articles or popular sources of news and analysis such as the *New York Times* and *The Economist*.