

Economics of the Public Sector

Course Content: This course will cover the major topics in public finance. We will examine the theoretical and empirical issues concerning the provision and allocation of public goods and services, positive and normative aspects of taxation, and fiscal federalism. This course is taught with the expectation that students have completed Economics 201.

Office Hours: Office hours will be held in Vollum 227 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15-4:15pm and on Thursdays from 4-5pm. Students who are unable to come during these times are encouraged to make an appointment.

Text and Required Reading: The principal text for this course is *Public Finance* (10th edition) by Harvey S. Rosen and Ted Gayer. In addition to the text, students are responsible for the required readings and for additional readings that will occasionally be announced in class. Students are expected to contribute by integrating, when appropriate, current public finance issues drawn from the business, financial, and general press into class discussions and by posting relevant articles on the appropriate Moodle forum. *Congressional Quarterly*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The Economist* are highly recommended. Every student should be prepared to contribute meaningfully to every class session.

Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on the following assignments and on your participation in class discussions and Moodle postings:

Problem sets due: February 12, March 4, and April 15

Conferences: February 22(education reform), March 2(social security reform), March 11(expenditure programs), April 22(soda tax)

Midterm: March 14

Final exam: Date and time to be confirmed by the Registrar's Office

Materials on Reserve: The following books are on 2-hour reserve. Required readings are available on the course Moodle page. Supplementary readings (marked with a *) provide more detailed information about a topic.

Burman, Leonard E. and Joel Slemrod. 2013. *Taxes in America: What Everyone Needs to Know* Oxford University Press: New York, NY.

Rosen and Gayer, Harvey S. and Ted Gayer. 2013. *Public Finance* (10th edition) Irwin/McGraw Hill: Chicago, Illinois.

Slemrod, Joel and Jon Bakija. 2008. *Taxing Ourselves: A Citizen's Guide to the Debate over Taxes* (4th edition) The MIT Press: Cambridge, MA.

Sachs, Jeffrey. 2005. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* Penguin Books: New York, NY.

Sachs, Jeffrey. 2008. *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* Penguin Books: New York, NY.

Outline and Reading List

I. Introduction and Methodology

January 25: Introduction

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 1

FiveThirtyEightPolitics. 2015. The Big Issues of the 2016 Campaign (November 19).

Gayer, Ted and Fred Dews. 2016. The Top Economic Issues in 2016. *The Brookings Cafeteria Podcast* (January 8).

Gallup. Most Important Problem: Percentage of Americans Mentioning Economic Issues as the Nation's Most Important Problem.

*Borcherding, Thomas E. 1985. The Causes of Government Expenditure Growth: A Survey of the U.S. Evidence. *Journal of Public Economics* 28: 359-382.

*Menchik, Paul L. 1991. The Distribution of Federal Expenditures. *National Tax Journal* XLIV: 269-276.

*Wallis, John J. 2000. American Government Finance in the Long Run: 1790 to 1990. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (Winter) 14: 61-82.

January 27: Positive Analysis

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 2

Cooter, Robert and Brian J. Broughman. 2005. Charity, Publicity, and the Donation Registry. *The Economists' Voice* 2(3).

Sykes, Alan O. 1993. An Introduction to Regression Analysis The University of Chicago Law and Economics Olin Working Paper No. 20.

*Isaac, R. Mark and James M. Walker. 1988. Communication and Free-Riding Behavior: The Voluntary Contribution Mechanism. *Economic Inquiry* 26: 585-608.

January 29: Normative Analysis

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 3

*Frank, Robert H. 2008. *Microeconomics and Behavior* (7th edition) Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill Irwin. Chapter 18W “General Equilibrium and Market Efficiency.”

February 1: Cost-Benefit Analysis

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 8 (to page 166).

Cropper, Maureen. 2013. How Should Costs and Benefits be Discounted in an Intergenerational Context? *Resources* 183: 30-35.

Hahn, Robert W. and Cass R. Sustein. 2005. The Precautionary Principle as a Basis for Decision Making. *The Economists' Voice* 2(2).

February 3: Applications of Cost-Benefit Analysis

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 8 (page 166 to end).

The Economist. 2005. Vaccination: A Drop of Pure Gold (October 15): 85-86.

Burnett, Jason K. and Robert W. Hahn. 2001. A Costly Benefit: Economic Analysis Does Not Support EPA's New Arsenic Rule *Regulation* (Fall): 44-49.

Abrams, Burton A. and George Parsons. 2010. The Uneasy Case for Subsidizing Energy Efficiency. *The Milken Institute Review* (First Quarter) 62-70.

*Butters, Gerard et al. Reply to Steven Kelman. In Glickman, Theodore S. and Michael Gough (eds.). 1990. *Readings in Risk* Washington, D.C.: Resources for the Future.

*Gayer, Ted and Emily Parker. 2014. Cash for Clunkers...Not So Clever *The Milken Institute Review* (Second Quarter) 44-52.

*Hahn, Robert W. 2005. The Economics of Rebuilding Cities: Reflections after Katrina. *The Economists' Voice* 2(4).

*Kelman, Steven. Cost-Benefit Analysis: An Ethical Critique. In Glickman, Theodore S. and Michael Gough (eds.). 1990. *Readings in Risk* Washington, D.C.: Resources for the Future.

II. Public Goods

February 5: Government Failure and the Theory of Public Goods

Coyle, Diane. 2013. The Economics of Enough *The Milken Institute Review* (First Quarter) 73-90.

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 4 (to page 64)

February 8: Nonprofits

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 4 (page 64 to end).

Weisbrod, Burton A. 1989. Rewarding Performance that is Hard to Measure: The Private Nonprofit Sector. *Science* 244 (4904): 541-546.

Malani, Anup and Eric A. Posner. 2006. The Case for For-Profit Charities The University of Chicago Law and Economics Olin Working Paper No. 304.

MercyCorps Northwest. 2016. Community Investment Trust, Research, and Outcomes and Impact Webpages (Accessed January 12).

*Blackstone, Erwin A. and Simon Hakim. 2010. Privatizing the Police. *The Milken Institute Review* (Third Quarter) 54-61.

*Demsetz, Harold. 1970. The Private Production of Public Goods. *Journal of Law and Economics* 13: 293-306.

III. Theory of Externalities

February 10: Theory

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 5 (to page 87).

*Coase, Ronald. 1960. The Problem of Social Cost. *Journal of Law and Economics* (October): 1-44.

February 12: Applications

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 5 (page 87-end).

Goulder, Lawrence H. and Ian W.H. Parry. 2008. Instrument Choice in Environmental Policy *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 2(2): 152-174.

Libecap, Gary D. 2010. Water Woes: Using Markets to Quench the Thirst of the American West *The Milken Institute Review* (Fourth Quarter) 58-68.

IV. Collective Choice and Voting

February 15 and 17: Collective Choice and Voting

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 6.

Caplan, Bryan. 2008. What if the Median Voter Were a Failing Student? *The Economists' Voice* 5(6).

Edlin, Aaron S., Andrew Gelman and Noah Kaplan. 2008. Vote for Charity's Sake *The Economists' Voice* 5(6).

Blinder, Alan. 1997. Is Government Too Political? A Question of Balance. *Foreign Affairs*. November / December 76: 115-126.

*Berman, Sheri and Kathleen R. McNamara. 1999. Bank on Democracy. *Foreign Affairs*. March / April: 2-8.

*Schultze, Charles L. 1992. Is There a Bias Toward Excess in U.S. Government Budgets or Deficits? *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 6: 25-44.

*Stiglitz, Joseph. 1998. The Private Uses of Public Interests: Incentives and Institutions. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (Spring) 12: 3-22.

V. Education

February 19: Education Policy

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 7

Levin, Henry M. 1987. Education as a Public and Private Good. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 6: 628-639.

Valletta, Rob. 2015. Higher Education, Wages, and Polarization. *Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Economic Letter* (January 12).

*Goldin, Claudia and Lawrence F. Katz. 2009. The Future of Inequality: The Other Reason Education Matters So Much *The Milken Institute Review* (Third Quarter) 26-33.

February 22: Education Policy Debate: Public school reform - is competition the answer?

*Angrist, Joshua, Eric Bettinger, and Michael Kremer. 2006. Long-Term Educational Consequences of Secondary School Vouchers: Evidence from Administrative Records in Columbia. *American Economic Review* (June): 847-862.

*Downes, Thomas A. 1992. Evaluating the Impact of School Finance Reform on the Provision of Public Education: The California Case. *National Tax Journal* XLV: 405-421.

*Figlio, David and Cassandra M.D. Hart. 2014. Competitive Effects of Means-Tested School Vouchers *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 6(1) 133-156.

*Ladd, Helen. 2002. School Vouchers: A Critical View. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 16 (4): 3-24.

*Levin, Henry M. 1998. Educational Vouchers: Effectiveness, Choice, and Costs *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 17(3): 373-392.

*Neal, Derek. 2002. How Vouchers Could Change the Market for Education. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (Fall) 25-44.

*Whitehurst, Grover J. "Russ" and Sarah Whitfield. 2013. School Choice and School Performance in the New York City Public Schools-Will the Past be Prologue? *Brookings* (October 8).

VI. Health Care

February 24: Health Care Market

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 9

Martin, Anne B., Micah Hartman, Joseph Benson, Aaron Catlin and the National Health Expenditures Accounts Team. 2016. National Health Spending in 2014: Faster Growth Driven By Coverage Expansion and Prescription Drug Spending *Health Affairs* 35(1) 150-160.

*Christensen, Clayton M., Richard Bohmer, and John Kenagy. 2000. Will Disruptive Innovations Cure Health Care? *Harvard Business Review*. (September-October): 102-111.

*Herzlinger, Regina E. 2002. Let's Put Consumers in Charge of Health Care. *Harvard Business Review* (July): 44-55.

February 26: Health Care Reform

Rosen, Chapter 10

Shartzter, Adele, Sharon K. Long, and Nathaniel Anderson. 2016. Access to Care and Affordability Have Improved Following Affordable Care Act Implementation; Problems Remain *Health Affairs* 35(1) 161-168.

The Henry J . Kaiser Family Foundation. 2013. The YouToons Get Ready for Obamacare: Health Insurance Changes Coming Your Way Under the Affordable Care Act (July 17). Video.

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. 2014. Health Insurance Explained: The YouToons Have it Covered (December 2). Video.

*Porter, Michael E. and Elizabeth Olmsted Teisberg. 2004. Redefining Competition in Health Care. *Harvard Business Review* (June) 65-76.

VII. Social Security

February 29

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 11.

Isacacs, Julia B. 2009. Spending on Children and the Elderly. Brookings Center on Children and Families (November).

March 2: Social Security Reform Debate: Major reform or minor tweaks?

*Fullerton, Don and Michael Geruso. 2006. The Many Definitions of Social Security Privatization. *The Economists' Voice* 3(4), Article 3.

*Kotlikoff, Laurence J. and Scott Burns. 2004. *The Coming Generational Storm: What You Need to Know about America's Economic Future*. The MIT Press: Cambridge, MA.

*Magin, Konstantin. 2007. Why Liberals Should Enthusiastically Support Social Security Personal Accounts *The Economists' Voice* 4(6).

* Special Issue on Social Security *The Economists' Voice* Volume 2 (1).

VIII. Income Transfer Programs

March 4: Income Distribution

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 12 (through page 256).

Desilver, Drew. 2013. Chart of the Week: The Changing Patterns of Global Income Distribution Pew Research Center (November 8).

Bengali, Leila and Mary Daly. 2013. U.S. Economic Mobility: The Dream and the Data *Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Economic Letter* (March 4).

Cragg, Michael and Rand Ghayad. 2015. Growing Apart: The Evolution of Income vs. Wealth Inequality *Economists' Voice* 12(1) 1-12.

Alvaredo, Facundo, Anthony B. Atkinson, Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez. 2013. The Top 1 Percent in International and Historical Perspective *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27 (3) 3-20.

*Economic Mobility Project. 2012. Pursuing the American Dream: Economic Mobility Across Generations The Pew Charitable Trusts (July).

March 7: Income Redistribution

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 12 (page 256 to end) and Chapter 13 (to page 280).

Thurow, Lester. 1971. Income Distribution as a Pure Public Good. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 85 (2): 327-336.

*Browning, Edgar K. and William R. Johnson. 1984. The Trade-Off between Equality and Efficiency. *Journal of Political Economy* 92: 175-203.

*Rawls, John. 1985. Concepts of Distributional Equity: Some Reasons for the Maximin Criterion. *American Economic Review* 64: 141-146.

*Tobin, James. 1970. On Limiting the Domain of Inequality. *Journal of Law and Economics* 13: 263-276.

March 9: Expenditure Programs for the Poor: Past and Future

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 13 (page 280-end).

Haveman, Robert, Rebecca Blank, Robert Moffitt, Timothy Smeeding, and Geoffrey Wallace. 2014. The War On Poverty: Measurement, Trends, and Policy. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 34(3) 593-638.

Moffitt, Robert A. 2014. The Social Safety Net in the Great Recession: Success, Failure, or a Little of Each? *The Milken Institute Review* (Fourth Quarter) 55-65.

*Blank, Rebecca M. 2000. Fighting Poverty: Lessons from Recent U.S. History. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14: 3-19.

*Ellwood, David T. 2000. Anti-Poverty Policy for Families in the Next Century: From Welfare to Work - and Worries. *Journal of Economic Perspective* 14: 187-198.

*Holt, Steve. 2006. The Earned Income Tax Credit at Age 30: What We Know The Brookings Institution Research Brief (February)

*Rogers, Diane Lim and Alan Weil. 2000. Welfare Reform and the Role of Tax Policy. *National Tax Journal* LIII: 385-402.

March 11 Debate: Should the Minimum Wage Be Increased?

*AEI/Brookings Working Group on Poverty and Opportunity. 2015. *Opportunity, Responsibility, and Security: A Consensus Plan for Reducing Poverty and Restoring the American Dream* The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research and the Brookings Institution.

*Dolan, Ed. 2014. The Pragmatic Case for a Universal Basic Income. *The Milken Institute Review* (Third Quarter) 14-23.

*Furman, Jason. 2014. Inclusive Growth: For Once, Some Good News *The Milken Institute Review* (Fourth Quarter) 16-29.

*Manning, Alan. 2013. +25% To Raise, or Not to Raise, The Minimum Wage—Again. *The Milken Institute Review* (Third Quarter) 46-55.

*Sachs, Jeffrey. 2005. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* Penguin Books: New York, NY.

*Sachs, Jeffrey. 2008. *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* Penguin Books: New York, NY.

IX. Principles of Taxation

March 16: Taxation and Income Distribution: Theory

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 14 (to page 313)

March 18: Taxation and Income Distribution: Application

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 14 (page 313-end).

Grainger, Corbett A. and Charles D. Kolstad. 2008. Who Pays for a Carbon Tax? *Environmental and Resource Economics* 46(3) 359-376.

March 28: Taxation and Efficiency

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 15 (to top of page 334 and Appendix A)

March 30: Taxation and Efficiency

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 15 (page 334 to end and Appendix B)

Davis, Lucas. 2014. The Cost of Global Fuel Subsidies *The Milken Institute Review* (Third Quarter) 48-57.

Postrel, Virginia. 2000. The U.S. Tax System is Discouraging Married Women from Working. *The New York Times* (November 2): C2.

*Alm, James and J. Sebastian Leguizamon. 2015. Whither the Marriage Tax? *National Tax Journal* 68(2) 251-280.

*Oates, Wallace E. and Robert M. Schwab. 2015. The Window Tax: A Case Study in Excess Burden *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 29(1) 163-179.

April 1: Equitable Taxation

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 16 (to page 359).

Mankiw, N. Gregory, Matthew Weinzierl and Danny Yagan. 2009. Optimal Taxation in Theory and Practice *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 23(4) 147-174.

April 4: Criteria for Tax Design

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 16 (page 359 to end).

Slemrod, Joel. 2007. Cheating Ourselves: The Economics of Tax Evasion *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 21(1): 25-48.

*Slemrod, Joel. 1990. Optimal Taxation and Optimal Tax Systems. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 4: 157-178.

*Samuelson, P. 1986. Theory of Optimal Taxation. *Journal of Public Economics* 30: 137-143.

*Sandmo, A. 1976. Optimal Taxation: An Introduction to the Literature. *Journal of Public Economics* 6: 37-54.

IX. The United States Tax Structure

April 6 and 8: Individual Income Tax

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 17.

Oregon Legislative Revenue Office. 2016. Oregon Public Finance Basic Facts Research Report #1-16 (parts A and B).

Williams, Roberton. 2013. Who Pays No Income Tax? A 2013 Update. Tax Facts. Tax Policy Center Urban Institute and Brookings Institutions (September 30).

*Burman, Leonard E., William G. Gale and Jeffrey Rohaly. 2005. The Expanding Reach of the Individual Alternative Minimum Tax. Tax Policy Center - Urban Institute (May 31).

*Viard, Alan D. 2006. The Looming Challenge of the Alternative Minimum Tax Economic Letter: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (August).

April 11 and 13: Personal Taxation and Behavior

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 18.

Edlin, Aaron S. 2005. The Choose-your-Charity Tax: A Way to Incentivize Greater Giving. *The Economists' Voice* 2(3).

Frank, Robert H. 2005. Progressive Consumption Taxation as a Remedy for the U.S. Savings Shortfall. *The Economists' Voice* 2(3).

April 15: Corporate Taxation

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 19.

Oregon Legislative Revenue Office. 2016. Oregon Public Finance Basic Facts Research Report #1-16 (focus on the corporate income sections in part C).

*McClure, Charles E. 1981. The Elusive Incidence of the Corporate Income Tax: The State Case. *Public Finance Quarterly* 9: 395-413.

*Gravelle, Jane G. 1995. The Corporate Income Tax: Economic Issues and Policy Options. *National Tax Journal* XLVIII: 267-278.

April 18: Deficit Finance

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 20.

Bixby, Bob and Maya MacGuineas. 2015. Why the Federal Debt Must Be a Top Priority for the 2016 Presidential Candidates Budgeting for National Priorities Project at Brookings (November 18).

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. 2013. In Deficit Debate, Public Resists Cuts in Entitlements and Aid to Poor (December 19).

*Barro, Robert J. 1989. The Ricardian Approach to Budget Deficits *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 3(2): 37-54.

*Burman, Len. 2010. Countdown to Catastrophe. *The Milken Institute Review* (Second Quarter) 16-25.

*Bernheim, B. Douglas. 1989. A Neoclassical Perspective on Budget Deficits *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 3(2): 55-72.

*Kotlikoff, Laurence J. 2006. Averting America's Bankruptcy with a New Deal. *The Economists' Voice* 3 (2).

*Gale, William G. and Peter R. Orszag. 2004. The Budget Outlook: Projections and Implications. *The Economists' Voice* 1(2).

April 20 and 22: Tax Reform

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 21.

Viscusi, W. Kip. 1994. Promoting Smokers' Welfare with Responsible Taxation. *National Tax Journal* XLVII: 547-558.

Kleven, Henrik Jacobsen. 2014. How Can Scandinavians Tax So Much? *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28(4) 77-98.

Burman, Leonard E. 2014. The Tax Reform That Just Won't Die [And Shouldn't] *The Milken Institute Review* (Second Quarter) 16-23.

*Clotfelter, Charles T. and Philip J. Cook. 1990. On the Economics of State Lotteries. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 4(4): 105-119.

*Cook, Philip J. and Michael J. Moore. 1994. This Tax's for You: The Case for Higher Beer Taxes. *National Tax Journal* XLVII: 559-573.

*Gale, William G. and Joel Slemrod. 2001. Rhetoric and Economics in the Estate Tax Debate The Brookings Institution (May 22).

*Slemrod, Joel. 2011. How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the VAT *The Milken Institute Review* (First Quarter) 16-25.

*Slemrod, Joel and Jon Bakija. 2008. *Taxing Ourselves: A Citizen's Guide to the Debate Over Taxes* (4th edition) MIT Press: Cambridge, MA. (especially chapters 6 and 7).

*Rousso, Ada S. and Shvetank P. Shah. 1994. Packaging Taxes and Recycling Incentives: The German Green Dot Program. *National Tax Journal* XLVII: 689-701.

April 25: Should Oregon impose a soda tax?

*NPR Stories About Soda Tax: <http://www.npr.org/tags/145127482/soda-tax>

*Sanger-Katz, Margot. 2015. Yes, Soda Taxes Seem to Cut Soda Drinking *The New York Times* (October 13).

*Slemrod, Joel and Jon Bakija. 2008. *Taxing Ourselves: A Citizen's Guide to the Debate over Taxes* (4th edition) The MIT Press: Cambridge, MA.

*Sturm, Roland, Lisa M. Powell, Jamie F. Chriqui, and Frank J. Chaloupka. 2010. Soda Taxes, Soft Drink Consumption, and Children's Body Mass Index *Health Affairs* 29(5) 1052-1058.

X. Fiscal Federalism

April 27 and 29

Rosen and Gayer, Chapter 22.

Oates, Wallace E. 2008. The Evolution of Fiscal Federalism: Theory and Institutions. *National Tax Journal* 61(2): 313-334.

Donahue, John D. 1997. Tiebout? Or Not Tiebout? The Market Metaphor and America's Devolution Debate. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. (Fall): 73-82.

*Gordon, Tracy. 2013. The Downside of States as Laboratories for Tax Reform. Brookings (February 5)

*Inman, Robert and Rubinfeld, Daniel. 1997. Rethinking Federalism. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. (Fall): 43-64.

*Quigley, John M. and Daniel L. Rubinfeld. 1996. Federalism and Reductions in the Federal Budget. *National Tax Journal*: 289-302.

*Oates, Wallace E. 1981. On Local Finance and the Tiebout Model. *American Economic Review* 71: 93-98.

Assignment List, Due Dates, and Exam Schedule

The following is a list of assignments and due dates. All assignments are due in class on the date listed below. In fairness to other students, late assignments will be penalized 1 grade for each day or partial day past the due date. Assignments handed in more than 3 days after the due date will not be accepted.

Collaboration, Citations and the Honor Principle

All work submitted during this course is expected to reflect the effort of the individual whose name appears on top of the page. You are encouraged to work with friends, tutors and instructors on assignments. However, when the time comes to write up your work for submission, it must be your work written in your own words. The Economics Department Citation Guide (available on the class Moodle page) should be used for citations in problem sets and the conference brief. All exams are to be taken closed book, closed notes and without any collaboration.

Examinations

The midterm exam is on Monday, March 14th. The comprehensive final exam will be given during finals week. The exact date and time of the final will be confirmed in the second part of the semester by the Registrar's Office.

Problem Set Due Dates:

Problem Set	Date Distributed	Date Due
Problem Set 1	February 5	February 12
Problem Set 2	February 26	March 4
Problem Set 3	April 8	April 15

Conferences

Students will be divided into eight groups with approximately three people in each group. Each group will be responsible for one presentation – I recommend using PowerPoint. The presentations will be approximately 15 minutes long allowing 20 minutes for rebuttal and discussion; it is expected that all group members will participate in the research, creation, and presentation of the topic to the class. Presentations should be informative, practiced, and clear.

In addition to the presentation, each group should write a “brief” of 5 pages that summarizes the main arguments and evidence in a clear and well-documented fashion. The brief should be in outline form where the main points of the argument are given and briefly discussed. Citations should use the format detailed in the Economics Department citation guide. This brief should be posted on Moodle no later than noon on the day before the conference.

Evaluation will be based on the brief, presentation, and your thoughtful participation in discussions for your conference and the other three conferences.