Public Economics Policy: Fall 2017

Professor Sujoy Chakravarty
Tuesday/Thursday: 7.15-8.35 pm
Hickman Hall (HCK), Room 119

Contact Information and location for office hours
Sujoy Chakravarty, PhD
Assistant Research Professor
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New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
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Email: schakravarty@ifh.rutgers.edu

Office Hours:
Wednesday: 10-11 am & Thursdays: 4-5 pm (may be subject to change)

Course Objective:
This course introduces you to micro-economic principles that are necessary to meaningfully understand and evaluate issues of public policy with specific focus on health policy. It will enable you to have an in-depth understanding of the fundamental incentives and mechanisms that drive individual and firm-level economic decision making processes. You will understand the systems that determine market demand, supply, and price; be able to distinguish between markets that are competitive or monopolized by few firms; and assess the need for government intervention in specific cases when markets are not able to ensure optimal outcomes. Overall, through this course you will learn about the economic and business processes underlying markets and market participants and how government policies may impact outcomes related to these processes. To demonstrate these concepts and applications we will utilize the U.S. healthcare industry comprising hospitals, insurance firms, physicians and consumers.

Course Policies:

Required Reading: The required text book for this course is Principles of Microeconomics: Brief Edition- Second Edition. Authors: Robert Frank and Ben Bernanke. I will post required readings for class in Sakai. It is your responsibility to check Sakai for these readings.

Attendance: I will take attendance at the beginning of the class. It will account for 10% of the total grade. This will be split among the total number of classes. If you come in late, you will miss the attendance for that class.
Assignments: There will be 3 assignments. Assignments will be due at the beginning of class. Dates will be posted on Sakai and also announced in class. You may email assignments to me, only if you are not attending class that day. If emailed, they should reach my inbox by the beginning of the class. I will often discuss the solutions to the assignments on the day of submission, so it is in your interest not to miss or be late in any of those classes. Assignments must be typed. I encourage students to work in small groups on the assignments. However, they must be written up individually.

Communications: The only way to reach me outside of office hours is by email, or by prior appointment; do not phone me at my office without prior appointment. When you email me be sure to use your Rutgers email. Others may go to the spam folder.

Exams dates and content: There will 2 examinations. The first one will be on October 17;

The final exam will be on the date scheduled by the university. The date will be announced in class and the information will also be available at: https://finalexams.rutgers.edu/

The final exam will be based on the entire contents from the course. You will be allowed makeup exams only if you have a legitimate, unavoidable reason along with documentation (e.g., a doctor’s note verifying that you were unwell at the time of the exam).

Grades: The midterm examination will account for 30% and the end term examination will account for 35% of your grade. The three assignments together will account for 25% of your grade. The remaining 10% will be based on your attendance.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to uphold the university academic integrity policy. The policy can be found at:
http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/


Grades and Final Score

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>79-85</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>72-78</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>66-71</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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Course Plan:

Some modifications may be made to sequence and the timings of the individual topics as the semester proceeds.

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