

University of Lethbridge
Economics 3710
Economic Analysis of Canadian Public Issues

Fall 2003

Dr. Richard Mueller

Class Time: TTh 13:40-14:55

Place: C-589

Office: D-552

Office Hours: TTh 15:00-16:30

Phone: 329-2510

E-mail: richard.mueller@uleth.ca

Website: <http://people.uleth.ca/~richard.mueller>

Prerequisite: Third-year standing (i.e., a minimum of 60 credit hours).

Required Material: No textbooks. All readings are available on-line or in the library.

Reserve Reading: Paul Heyne, and John P. Palmer, *The Economic Way of Thinking*, 1st Canadian Edition.
Scarborough: Prentice-Hall Canada, 1999.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to apply economic analysis to current Canadian public policy issues. Seminars will begin with a review of some of the economic theory, followed by a more in-depth analysis of some related readings and discussion. The topics will be weighted heavily towards labour and social issues, although we will also address other topical issues. Given the nature of this course, topics may be added and deleted throughout the semester.

Course Readings and Classroom Discussions:

To facilitate class discussion, students are expected to read the course materials before attending lectures. At least two to three days before the specific class period questions related to the readings will be sent via e-mail. These questions are designed to highlight the important points in each article, to think about policies that might be appropriate given the results of the literature, and to keep us on track during our discussions.

All readings will be available in the library and/or on line. A reading list will be handed out in class.

Attendance in class is not mandatory, but is necessary for the seminar to function properly. Repeated absences will be noted, both by the professor and your colleagues. Missing classes will not be considered a valid excuse for inability to answer any exam question. Out of respect for all students in the class, unnecessary disruptions will not be tolerated.

Class Presentations and Participation:

Each student is expected to read the material in the appropriate section and lead a class discussion on the topic. Each topic should take an entire class period. The main points of the paper(s) should be outlined, the ideas critiqued, and plenty of time left for discussion of the policy issues. All members of the class are expected to read the materials ahead of time and contribute to the class discussion. *Your colleagues will be grading you on your participation.* Furthermore, the class will not work unless we are all able to contribute something to the debate. Critical thinking is what this class is all about. A sign-up sheet for the topics will be circulated during the semester with the sign-up order randomly chosen.

Term Paper and Presentation:

Students are expected write a term paper (ideally) related to the topic that they have chosen. The reading(s) for your presentation will assist you in choosing a term paper topic by providing you with specific topics that you would like to research in more depth. Of course, you are free to choose your own topic if you like. *All topics must be cleared with the professor in advance of any substantive work being completed.* A handout on the appropriate preparation of a term paper will follow. Depending on class size, presentations should be about 25 minutes in length with about 10 minutes left for questions. A sign-up sheet will be circulated in class at the appropriate time.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be a take-home final. It will be handed out during our final class meeting (Thursday, December 4th) and due in my office on Wednesday, December 10th at 9:00 AM sharp.

Absence Policy, and Grade Determination:

Except under extremely unusual circumstances, if a deadline is to be missed for any valid reason (and this does happen), you must give notification before the scheduled deadline by calling my office. This is then to be followed up with appropriate documentation (e.g., a medical certificate) within 48 hours of the missed deadline. Failure to do one or both of these will result in a failing grade on the assignment. No requests will be entertained for an early or delayed final exam.

Your final numerical grade will be weighted as follows:

Class Presentation	15%
Term Paper	30%
Term Paper Presentation	10%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam (take-home)	25%

Letter grades will be based on numerical final grades as follows:

A/A+	83.4+	C	63.4-66.6
A-	80.0-83.3	C-	60.0-63.3
B+	76.7-79.9	D+	56.7-59.9
B	73.4-76.6	D	50.0-56.6
B-	70.0-73.3	F	<50
C+	66.7-69.9		

Students who seek a reappraisal of any exam must do so within one week of the material being returned to the class, otherwise such requests will not be entertained.