

University of Baltimore

# PUAD 701—Public Administration and Public Finance

Instructor James Howard

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Class Time Mondays, 8:15pm–10:45pm (2015–2245)

Classroom AC 237

## Course Description

Analysis of revenue forecasting, revenue strategy, impact of inflation, taxation, “back-door” spending, pension funding, user fees and other aspects of governmental finance. Emphasis on the special characteristics of public finance in communities operating with fragmented and multilayered governmental structures.

## Course Materials

Hyman, D. N. (2014). *Public finance: A contemporary application of theory to policy* (11th ed.). Cengage.

## Course Goals

By the end of this course, a student should be able to understand

- The role of government in the economy
- Decision analysis tools used by the government
- The role of taxation in the economy
- How income support functions

## Grading

The course will be graded based on weekly homework assignments and a paper.

### HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

There will be homework assignments for each week. These assignments can be turned in via PDF, Word, Excel, or on paper. These assignments are due on the dates listed on the schedule and will not be accepted late except under unusual circumstances. There are 13 homework assignments and they are each worth 6 percent of the final course grade. Collectively, they comprise 78 percent of the course grade. Each will consist of a number of problems of equal weight and will be graded on a 4 point scale consisting of the following scale.

- 0 points: No answer given or the response is not aligned to problem.
- 1 point: Misses key points and no appropriate supporting material provided. The response shows no understanding of the problem.
- 2 points: Explanation or diagram unclear. Final answer is not correct, but response shows some understanding of the problem.
- 3 points: Detailed response given that shows understanding of the problem. Final answer may not be correct.
- 4 points: Detailed response given with no errors.

### TERM PAPER

There is a term paper requirement for this class. The paper must use a formal analytical method such as statistical analysis, policy analysis, cost-benefit analysis, qualitative analysis, or any other formal analytical system appropriate to the problem. However, if not listed above, please ask first about the analytical method. The paper must cover

a topic area of public finance and public administration, broadly defined. The paper will be worth 22 percent of the course grade.

The paper will be graded on key domains. The first, mechanics, covers basic spelling and grammar. The second, topic answers the question of whether or not the topic was appropriate for this class. The third, organization focuses on how well the paper is organized and whether parts of the paper flow well from one to the next. Fourth, background essentially handles the introduction and literature review (if separate) and whether or not you set up the problem sufficiently. Fifth, analysis is a measure of the quality of the analysis. Sixth, conclusions is the quality of the recommendations and/or conclusions presented. Seventh, supplemental scores the quality of graphs, tables, and other non-text material, if any, presented. Finally, citations grades the references (not the references, themselves). Each of these is graded on a 0-4 scale and that is presented below. Each category weights equally and a paper score is given.

## Academic Dishonesty

The Academic Integrity Policy for the Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences, College of Public Affairs and Merrick School of Business can be found in the student handbook.

## Accommodation for Students with Special Needs

Accommodation for students with special needs can be set up through the Center for Educational Access. Please contact the Center for more information.

## Resource Centers for Students

Academic and counseling resources for students include but are not limited to:

- Achievement and Learning Center
- Langsdale Library
- Technology Services
- The Counseling Center
- Office of Community Life and Dean of Students
- Sakai Support
- Academic Advisors

## Tentative Schedule

- 9/8 Economics and politics
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 1
- 9/15 Markets and government
  - Hyman (2014), chapters 2, 3
  - Homework due: Chapter 1, problems 1, 3, 4
- 9/22 Public goods
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 4
  - Homework due: Chapter 2, problems 1, 4, Chapter 3, problems 1, 5
- 9/29 Public choice theory
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 5
  - Homework due: Chapter 4, problems 2, 3, 4
- 10/6 Government finance
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 10
  - Homework due: Chapter 5, problems 4, 5
- 10/13 Taxation and distribution
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 11

- Homework due: Chapter 10, problems 2, 3, 4, 5
- 10/20 Budgeting and borrowing
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 12
  - Homework due: Chapter 11, problems 1, 2, 4
- 10/27 Personal income taxation
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 14
  - Homework due: Chapter 12, problems 2, 3, 4, 5
- 11/3 Corporate income taxation
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 15
  - Homework due: Chapter 14, problems 2, 3, 5
- 11/10 Sales taxes
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 16
  - Homework due: Chapter 15, problems 1, 2, 5
- 11/17 Wealth taxes
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 17
  - Homework due: Chapter 16, problems 1, 2, 4, 5
- 11/24 Government investment and income support
  - Hyman (2014), chapters 6, 7
  - Homework due: Chapter 17, problems 1, 2, 4
  - Final paper due
- 12/1 Social Security and health care
  - Hyman (2014), chapters 8, 9
  - Homework due: Chapter 6, problems 2, 3, Chapter 7, problems 4, 5
- 12/8 Local government finance
  - Hyman (2014), chapter 18
  - Homework due: Chapter 8, problems 2, 5, Chapter 9, problems 4, 5