



**Carleton University Department of Economics**

**Winter 2025**

**ECON 3300A**

**Public Policy Toward Business**

**Instructor:** Haozhen Zhang

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**Office Location:** Loeb, B-840

**Office Hours:** After class or by appointment

**Course Location/Delivery:** In person, the room location will be available via Carleton Central.

**Course Day and Time:** 6:05 pm – 8:55 pm, Thursdays

**Brightspace Course Page:** <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/308725>

**Course Description:** The course provides an introductory overview of government policies affecting businesses in key areas such as competition policy, regulation, international trade, environmental and resource policies. It explores the interaction between government and business in the Canadian economy and examines the reasons for government involvement. The course equips students to better understand economic and business news, engage with political debates, and assess private sector concerns and the implications of government policies.

**Preclusions and Prerequisites:** The prerequisite for this course is ECON 1000, 1001 or FYSM 1003 as outlined in the Undergraduate Courses. Students who believe they have taken a similar background course or courses from another university must provide appropriate documentation to the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator.

Students are expected to have some familiarity with the Canadian government and government institutions.

**Textbook:**

Government Policy Towards Business, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, James A. Brander, John Wiley and Sons Canada Ltd, 2014. ISBN 978-0-470-15852-4

The price of the e-book is \$55.95. Purchasing the book is recommended but not mandatory. You can find more details on the book's website at <https://www.wiley.com/en-ca/Government+Policy+Towards+Business,+5th+Edition-p-9781118717400>

In addition to the textbook, the course will include materials from various sources, such as government reports, real-world data and facts, my own analysis, and other relevant textbooks, if needed.

### **Course Outline**

The course will cover the following chapters from the textbook, although not necessarily all the information of each chapter will be studied.

1. Introduction to economic analysis of public policy	Chapters 1, 2.
2. Government policy: normative vs. positive approach	Chapters 3, 4, 5
3. Firms, markets and market structure	Chapter 6
4. Market structure and Canadian business environment	Chapter 7
5. Canadian competition policy and antitrust practices	Chapter 11
6. International trade: theory, policy and institutions	Chapters 8
7. Price and entry regulations, public enterprise	Chapter 12
8. Environmental regulation	Chapters 9
9. Natural resource management	Chapter 10
10. Macro policy, innovation, IP and corporate responsibility	Chapter 13, 14, 15

Please note that I reserve the right to make modifications to the list of contents as the term proceeds. Any such modifications will be announced in a timely fashion by email and/or via Brightspace.

### **Student Evaluation & Course Grades**

Each student's grade in the course will be calculated as a weighted average of scores for two assignments (25%), a mid-term examination (30%), and a final examination (45%).

- First Assignments (Tentative due date: Feb 13), 12.5%
- Second Assignments (Tentative due date: Apr 1), 12.5%
- Mid-term Exam (Tentative date: Feb 27, 2025, **in-person**) 30%
- Final Exam (TBA—scheduled by the University, **in-person**) 45%

If one or more assignments are not submitted, the weight of the missed assignment(s) will not be transferred to the final examination without a documented and compelling reason. Applications to write a deferred final examination must be made at the Registrar's Office.

No late assignment will be accepted.

### **Missed midterm:**

Students who can document a compelling reason for missing the mid-term examination will be excused and their final grade will be based on their performance in the rest of the course—i.e.,

the weight of each of the remaining evaluation instruments will rise by a factor of 1/.70 (e.g., the final examination weight will become  $45\% \times 1/.70 = 64.29\%$ ). Students *must* inform the instructor of such an absence in advance, if possible. Application to write a deferred final examination must be made at the Registrar's Office.

**Satisfactory Performance Criteria:** Students must fulfil all of the preceding course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher). Failure to write the final examination when the student has achieved satisfactory performance during the term will result in a grade of 'F' until an appeal to write the deferred final exam, if granted by the Registrar's Office. A change of grade will be submitted when the deferred final exam has been written and the marks are available. See Academic Regulation 2.3 for the official meanings of the grades and note that it stipulates that no course grades are final until approved by the Faculty Dean. Application to write a deferred final examination must be made at the Registrar's Office in writing no later than three working days after the original final examination was scheduled.

**Final Exam:**

To be scheduled by the University. For updates, consult <http://www.carleton.ca/ses>

**NOTE:**

For verification and security purposes, I will not reply to emails originating from non-Carleton e-mail accounts, and which are not signed with a student's name and student number. Please ensure that you have a Carleton email account.

**Plagiarism:**

Please be aware that plagiarism is serious offense at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided. For further information on how to do so, please see "Academic Integrity and Offenses of Conduct": <https://carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries/academic-integrity-and-offenses-of-conduct/>

**Requests for Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wpcontent/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wpcontent/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Religious obligation**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first

two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](https://carleton.ca/pmc)

### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)