

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Department of Economics

ECON 5064: Economic Policy Formulation and Evaluation

Fall 2022

Instructor: Munir A. Sheikh

Course description

The course would develop the tools, and apply them, to formulate and evaluate public policies. The tools would be built using the most current economic theory literature in the context of a broad set of Canadian and international public policies. They would then be applied to several Canadian and international policies to draw conclusions on what state they are in and prepare students to find ways to improve them.

Text and required reading

There will be no required text. The required reading will involve 1 to 3 articles for each class as described below.

Students are also asked to read analyses of current policy issues in the Canadian and international media in doing their assignments and for participating in group discussions.

Course Delivery

This is an online course delivered using Zoom. You will receive an invitation to join the lectures. It is expected that students have a webcam and that it is turned on for class participation and discussions. Power points of lectures shall be posted on Carleton University's Brightspace website one day before the lecture is delivered. There will be no recordings. Live participation is strongly recommended and encouraged.

Evaluation

The course would consist of lectures, group discussions of policy issues combined with class presentations, and three term papers.

Each term paper would count for 30% towards the final mark. Term papers are due as follows: the first at the end of day of Lecture 5; the second at the end of day of Lecture 10; and the third at the end of day one week after the last lecture. There is no rigid requirement for the length of a term paper, but most topics for term papers can be dealt with between 2,500 to 3,000 words.

Participation in group discussions and class presentations is strongly recommended and encouraged and counts for 10% of the final mark. Attendance is taken during group discussions. Students are expected to attend all discussions but can miss with a valid reason acceptable to the instructor, without affecting their grade.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Accommodation:

Carleton University has updated the policy on **academic accommodations**. Please see the updated statements here students.carleton.ca/course-outline/.

Plagiarism

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

Class Timing

Tuesdays from 6.05 p.m. to 8.55 p.m.

Class Location

All classes are on Zoom. An invitation will be sent via email.

Office Hours

Students will send an email to request, and a time will be arranged for a conversation on Zoom.

TA

N/A

Topics and Reading Material

1. Framework for policy formulation and evaluation

- a. Mariana Mazzucato and Rainer Kattel, 2020, “*Alternative policy evaluation frameworks and tools*”, University College London Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose. URL: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/public-purpose/sites/public-purpose/files/iipp-beis-alternative_policy_evaluation_frameworks_and_tools_oct_2020_final.pdf
- b. A power-point on a policy framework would be available on Brightspace before the first day of classes.

2. Productivity

- a. Syverson, Chad, 2011, *What Determines Productivity*, Journal of Economic Literature. URL: <https://home.uchicago.edu/~syverson/productivitysurvey.pdf>
- b. Ugucconi, James and Andrew Sharpe, *Decomposing the Productivity-Wage Nexus in Selected OECD Countries*, November 2016, URL: <http://www.csls.ca/reports/csls2016-16.pdf>

3. Immigration Policy and Aging

- a. Portes, Jonathan, *The Economics of Migration*, 2019. Sage Journals, URL: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1536504219854712>
- b. Picot, Garnett, 2013, *Economic and Social Objectives of Immigration*, Citizenship and Immigration Canada. URL: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330335968_Economic_and_Social_Objectives_of_Immigration_The_Evidence_that_Informs_Immigration_Levels_and_Education_Mix

4. Fiscal Policy and Budgetary Policy

- a. Halkos, George and Paizanos, Epameinondas, 2015, “*Fiscal policy and economic performance: A review of the theoretical and empirical literature*”, Munich Personal RePEc Archive. URL: https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/67737/1/MPRA_paper_67737.pdf.
- b. Munir Sheikh, “*The Complex World of Budgetary Policy: Made Even More Complex by COVID-19*” in *Canada and the United States: Differences that Count*, 5th edition, ed. David M. Thomas and Christopher Sands, University of Toronto Press (forthcoming).

5. Coronavirus

- a. The Economist, June 25, 2020, *The Covid-19 pandemic is forcing a rethink in macroeconomics*: URL: <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2020/07/25/the-covid-19-pandemic-is-forcing-a-rethink-in-macroeconomics>
- b. International Monetary Fund, 2021, *Will the Economic Impact of COVID-19 Persist? Prognosis from 21st Century Pandemics*. URL: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2021/04/30/Will-the-Economic-Impact-of-COVID-19-Persist-Prognosis-from-21st-Century-Pandemics-50288>

6. Pensions

- a. Hicks, Peter, *Retirement Income Policies: Reform Pressures over the Coming Decade*, June 2019. URL: <https://coaottawa.ca/wp-content/uploads/documents/Hicks-et-al-Retirement-Income-Policies-Reform-Pressures-24JUNE2019.pdf>

7. Environment/Carbon Tax

- a. Joa Nicolaisen, Andrew Dean and Peter Hoeller, 1991, *Economics and the Environment: A Survey of Issues and Policy Options*, OECD. URL: <https://www.oecd.org/economy/greeneco/34281824.pdf>
- b. Munir Sheikh, *Focus a Carbon Tax on the Economy, not the Environment*, Globe and Mail, January 6, 2015, URL: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/focus-a-carbon-tax-debate-on-the-economy-not-the-environment/article22311007/>

8. Income Distribution

- a. OECD, 2021, *Inequalities in Household Wealth and Financial Insecurity of Households* URL: <https://www.oecd.org/wise/Inequalities-in-Household-Wealth-and-Financial-Insecurity-of-Households-Policy-Brief-July-2021.pdf> Conference Board of Canada, *Income Inequality*, URL: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/hcp/details/society/income-inequality.aspx>
- b. Philip Cross and Munir Sheikh, 2015, *Caught in the Middle: Some in Canada's Middle Class are Doing Well; Others Have Good Reason to Worry*, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, URL: <https://journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/index.php/sppp/article/view/42511>

9. Aboriginal Policy

- a. Royal Commission, *Report on Aboriginal Peoples*, 1996, URL:
http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071115053257/http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/sg/sgmm_e.html

10. Federal-Provincial Relations

- i. Department of Finance, *Federal Support to Provinces and Territories*, 2019. URL:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/federal-transfers.html>

11. Social Assistance

- a. Parisa Mahboubi and Mariam Ragab, 2020, *Lifting Lives: The Problems with Ontario's Social Assistance Programs and How to Reform Them*, CD Howe Institute. URL:
https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/mixed/Commentary%20572_0.pdf
- b. Munir Sheikh, 2015, *Report of the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario: Taking Stock Two Years Later*, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary. URL:
<http://policyschool.ucalgary.ca/?q=content/report-commission-review-social-assistance-ontario-taking-stock-two-years-later>