

**NEW COURSE OFFERING IN THE 2016 FALL TERM  
ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS FROM 1:05 TO 2:25 P.M.**

**ECON 3201 A [0.5 CREDIT] – ECONOMIC THOUGHT AND POLICY IN CANADA:  
ECONOMICS IN THE NEWS**

**Course description**

Why is Uber such a disruptive force? Why do we pay such high cell phone charges in Canada? What causes poverty? And, how can you help the public understand why they should care about the underlying economic forces that affect their everyday lives?

This course will introduce you to economic principles and their application, giving you tools to absorb, analyze, and critique a wide range of public policy issues.

*While diagrams and some arithmetic will be used to simplify explanations, this is not a math-based course. It will start by describing “how economists think.” For example, why do they see free trade as a “win-win” policy for any country, when many others are against free trade? The course will also address various rationales for the role of governments in the economy. It will describe and critique the range of policy instruments used by governments with respect to issues that affect us all, from rent controls to soft drink taxes to the environment. Broader, economy-wide issues will also be discussed, such as: what are the advantages of Medicare over a private health care insurance approach; how does the Bank of Canada “create” money and how does that impact on the rate of unemployment; and, how does the federal government budget impact the overall economy in the short and long term?*

**Background**

Economics permeates everyday life. Most everyone both produces and consumes. They pay taxes to different levels of governments that are spent on a wide variety of policy objectives; in turn, they receive a variety of services and benefits, from education to housing. What are the underlying forces governing these various transactions? How valid are the promises of any political party when it comes to policies that always have a price tag? This course will help you, as communicators and engaged citizens, evaluate and explain the effectiveness of various government policies and programs by providing you with a framework to apply to these everyday economic decisions and assessments.

**Who should take the course?**

Students pursuing a degree in Journalism, Communication and Media Studies, Global and International Studies, or History who do *not* require ECON 1000 – Introduction to Economics for their programs.

*Prior studies in or knowledge of economics is not required.*

**Teaching approach**

The format of the course will be lectures and class discussion, along with two written assignments. Key economic concepts and analytical tools will be developed, discussed, and then applied in order to understand, evaluate, and critique a variety of current domestic and international policy issues. To prepare for future work in journalism, government, NGOs, or the corporate sector, students will be required to write tight, coherent analytical pieces on a small number of these issues.

**The instructor**

Paul Haddow taught a section of ECON 1000 in each of the last three years. Prior to that he held a number of senior positions in the Canadian government dealing with international trade policy and negotiations and Canada-U.S. border policy, including Director, Border Task Force at the Privy Council Office; Executive Director, International Affairs at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; and, Director, Trade Rules at Global Affairs. Before joining the federal government he held a number of positions in the Government of Saskatchewan, including Assistant Deputy Minister of International Trade and Executive Director, Inter-governmental Affairs in the Executive Council. He previously worked as an economic advisor in various Ministries of the Government of Kenya. He completed the oral and written examinations for a Ph.D. in economics at Queen's University, specializing in international trade and public finance.

**Queries**

If you have any questions related to course content, feel free to contact the instructor at [paul.haddow@carleton.ca](mailto:paul.haddow@carleton.ca).

Questions related to registration in the course should be directed to the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator, Amanda Wright, at [amanda.wright@carleton.ca](mailto:amanda.wright@carleton.ca).