ECON 5065F / ECON 4880V
Challenges in Canadian Economic Policy
Fall 2025 (September 3 – December 3)

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Vivian Hoffmann
Office: 5140 Richcraft Hall
Email: vivianhoffmann@cunet.carleton.ca
I generally respond to emails within 24 hours.
Instructor Office hours: by appointment

Classroom: Online, synchronous
Time: Wednesdays 6:05-8:55
Link to Brightspace Course Page:
https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/373307

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides a non-technical introduction to current policy debates in Canada from a micro-economic perspective. Class meetings will consist of lectures and discussion of assigned readings.

II. PRECLUSIONS

None

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Apply economic thinking to analyze policy topics including labour productivity, climate change, immigration, and health care
- Critically assess common assumptions in economic policy analysis
- Communicate economic arguments related to a current policy debate

IV. COURSE EXPECTATIONS

We will meet once per week online, for 2.5 hours (plus a 20-minute break halfway through the session). Students are expected to have read the week's assigned chapters and papers ahead of time and to come to class prepared to discuss these. The amount of reading per week will vary but is expected to take no more than 5 hours. Written reflections on the readings, submitted ahead of most classes, plus active participation in discussions, constitute most of the grade for this class.

V. REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Colburn, G. and Aldern, C.P., 2022. Homelessness is a housing problem: How structural factors explain US patterns. Univ of California Press. **$37.95 on Amazon.ca**
- All other readings will be made available via Brightspace at no cost.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

The following weekly timeline and reading list is tentative. **A final version of this syllabus will be posted online August 27**.

1. **Introduction/ review: economic analysis of public policy (**Sept 3) *no weekly reflection*

   Chapter 2, Public Finance in Canada 5th edition, by Harvey S. Rosen, Jean-Francois Wen and Tracy Snodden.

2. **Productivity (**Sept 10)

   RBC Economics & Thought Leadership. 2024. "Canada's Growth Challenge: Why the economy is stuck in neutral."

   Energi Talks 2024. (podcast) "From bad to worse: Canada's labour productivity crisis"

   Nicholson, P. 2024. "Industrial Revolutionary: How artificial intelligence will fuel Canadian productivity and prosperity" Public Policy Forum.

3. **Industrial Policy (**Sept 17)

   Juhász, R., Lane, N. and Rodrik, D., 2024. The new economics of industrial policy. *Annual Review of Economics*, *16*.

   Commission on Carbon Competitiveness and the Transition Accelerator. 2025. "The Right Move at the Right Time: A new Canadian industrial strategy."

4. **Immigration** (Sept 24)

   Doyle, M., Skuterud, M. and Worswick, C., 2025. The economics of Canadian immigration levels. *Canadian Journal of Economics/Revue canadienne d'économique*, 58(1), pp.109-135.

   Banerjee, R., Verma, A. and Zhang, T., 2019. Brain gain or brain waste? Horizontal, vertical, and full job-education mismatch and wage progression among skilled immigrant men in Canada. *International Migration Review*, 53(3), pp.646-670.

5. **Interprovincial Trade (**Oct 1)

   Alvarez, J., Krznar, M.I. and Tombe, T., 2019. *Internal trade in Canada: case for liberalization*. International Monetary Fund.

   WONK with Amanda Lang (podcast): How to build 'one Canadian economy' - Trevor Tombe on the Simple Fix to Boost Canada's Economy

   CUPE/SCPF. 2025. "Backgrounder on Interprovincial Trade Barriers".

6. **Housing Affordability (**Oct 8)

   Gordon, J.C., 2020. Reconnecting the housing market to the labour market: Foreign ownership and housing affordability in urban Canada. *Canadian Public Policy*, *46*(1), pp.1-22.

   Li J. Tax Reform: A Missing Piece in Canada's National Housing Policy. In: Stephanie Ben-Ishai, ed. *Dangerous Opportunities: The Future of Financial Institutions, Housing Policy, and Governance"* (University of Toronto Press, 2021, Chapter Five.

   Podcast, TBD

7. **Identify topics and form groups for policy presentation, group meetings with instructor (**Oct 15)

   READING WEEK (Oct 22)

8. **Homelessness (**Oct 29)

   Colburn, G. and Aldern, C.P., 2022. *Homelessness is a housing problem: How structural factors explain US patterns*. Univ of California Press. (Chapters TBD)

NO CLASS – work on group project (Nov 5)

9. **Healthcare (**Nov 12)

   Molander, P., 2025. Public versus private healthcare systems in the OECD area–a broad evaluation of performance. *The European Journal of Health Economics*, pp.1-11.

   Yanick Labrie. 2025. "Building Responsive and Adaptive Health Care Systems in Canada: Lessons from Switzerland." Fraser Institute.

10. **Climate Policy (**Nov 19)

    Blanchard, O., Gollier, C. and Tirole, J., 2023. The portfolio of economic policies needed to fight climate change. *Annual Review of Economics*, 15(1), pp.689-722.

11. **Group Presentations** (Nov 26 - Dec 3)

VII. EVALUATION

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.

In-class participation	10%
Weekly reflections (5% each)	45%
Group presentation (December 3)	15%
Final exam (TBD, during exam period)	30%

Weekly reflections on the assigned readings **must be written in Google Docs** and the link submitted via Brightspace before class starts on the due date. **Use of generative AI is not allowed and will result in a grade of zero for the assignment.** Version history will be reviewed to ensure compliance with this policy. DO NOT write your reflection on another document and then paste it into a Google Doc as this could result in a significant penalty to your grade. Late reflections will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be entered. Prompts to stimulate your thinking will be provided but you need not use these if you wish to reflect on a different aspect of the readings. *One* reflection on the group presentations is required. This reflection is due on December 5 and may address one or more of the presentations.

In-class participation
Participation will be evaluated based on students' demonstration that they have completed the assigned readings, their understanding of this material, and their ability to integrate and apply the ideas in a respectful manner. **Missing three or more classes without a documented reason will result in a grade of zero for participation**.

Final exam
The final exam will be held **in person** during the exam period. It will cover the material in the assigned readings and discussed in class. Students who live 160 km or more from Ottawa may apply to take and pay a fee for a distance exam. Information on how to apply can be found here: https://carleton.ca/ses/examination-services/distance-exams/

Group presentation
Groups of two to four (depending on class size) will work together to identify a policy challenge in Canada or internationally and then design and deliver to the class a 10-minute presentation that describes the problem and potential solutions. The policy challenge may relate to economic outcomes (e.g. growth, productivity, poverty, inequality) or it may relate to other outcomes (environment, health) but analyze these from an economic perspective. You may look into a specific angle of a topic covered in this class or explore a new topic entirely. Students may form their own groups. Individuals without a group will be randomly assigned to a group by the instructor. The project will be assessed as a whole, and individuals' grades adjusted up or down by up to 30 percentage points based on confidential peer assessments.

Letter grade	CU grade points	Indicates that work is:	% Range	Explanation
A+	12	Outstanding	90-100	For written work, virtually publishable. Demonstrates exceptional evaluative judgment, outstanding critical thinking, and mastery of technical as well as literary aspects of writing.
A	11	Excellent	85-89	Demonstrates superior grasp of material, very strong critical thinking, and capacity to understand and extend underlying patterns.
A-	10	Very Good	80-84	Demonstrates strong grasp of material, its component parts, and capacity to analyze their relationships to each other.

B+	9	Good	77-79	Demonstrates clear understanding of material and ability to apply concepts. Written work is competent.
B	8	Satisfactory	73-76	Satisfactory, but below average. Demonstrates comprehension of material, reasonable but not strong analytical capacity, with some limitations in the ability to apply concepts.
B-	7	Barely Adequate	70-72	Clearly below average. Demonstrates comprehension and understanding, with limited capacity for application. Communication skills problematic.
C+	6	Less Than Adequate	67-69	Did not demonstrate an adequate understanding of the material or the ability to apply the concepts. Writing and/or presentations show serious problems.
C to D-			50-66	Grades in this range indicate work that is passable in some respects but does not meet the standards of graduate work.
F			Failure	Did not meet minimal requirements.

VIII. PLAGIARISM

Please be aware that all work submitted as a requirement of ECON 5065 must be both your own work and produced specifically for this course. Academic offences are serious infractions and will not be tolerated. Students should consult the University's Academic Integrity Policy concerning academic integrity and instructional offences.

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor

suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Use of AI
For ECON 5065, AI and AI-assisted technologies such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or Elicit AI in the writing process, these technologies should only be used to identify sources and to improve the readability or visual presentation of the work and not to replace key writing or analytical tasks such as synthesizing, knowledge, drawing conclusions, or making recommendations. Authorized use of this technology should be done with human oversight and control, and all work should be reviewed and edited carefully, because AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete, or biased. Students are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of the work. **Students must disclose and describe any use of AI and AI-assisted technologies.** Unauthorized use of generative AI tools for scholarly work may be considered an offence under Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy. This policy is a modified version of the AI policy adopted by the academic publisher Elsevier.

IX. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc. – by both instructors and students – are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

X. ANTI-RACISM, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Carleton University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan
Indigenous Strategy Kinàmàgawin

For confidential inquiries related to harassment, discrimination and Accommodation response, please contact equity@carleton.ca.

Indigenous studies at Carleton
Students who wish to learn more about Indigenous programming at Carleton are encouraged to contact the Community Coordinator and Administrator, Indigenous Policy and Administration at IPA@carleton.ca. Also, for information about Carleton's Centre for Indigenous Initiatives and the *Ojigkwanong Indigenous Student Centre* (Patterson Hall 228), please visit https://carleton.ca/indigenous/.

XI. STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

As a university student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a helpful list of resources:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/

Carleton Resources:
• Mental Health and Wellbeing: https://carleton.ca/wellness/
• Health & Counselling Services: https://carleton.ca/health/
• Paul Menton Centre: https://carleton.ca/pmc/
• Academic Advising Centre (AAC): https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/
• Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): https://carleton.ca/csas/
• Equity & Inclusivity Communities: https://carleton.ca/equity/

Off Campus Resources:
• Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/
• Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, http://www.crisisline.ca/
• Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/
• Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, https://good2talk.ca/
• The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: https://walkincounselling.com

XII. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. Please review the processes for academic accommodation requests and ensure the link to this information is included in all course outlines/syllabi for courses you are teaching this academic year.

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

Pregnancy obligation: Write to me 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form: https://carleton.ca/equity/contact/form-pregnancy-accommodation/

Religious obligation: Write to me 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 see https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/ .

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the Ventus Student Portal at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the University Academic Calendars. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to

ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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 where 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: https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services

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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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