

Department of Economics, Carleton University
ECON 3403 A – Introduction to Public Economics: Expenditure
Summer 2026

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Course delivery: Remote with In person evaluations

Course Brightspace page: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/365108>

ALGONQUIN TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

EMAIL POLICY

Students can expect a reply within two to three business days. To receive a timely reply, please use your Carleton email address and include ECON 3403 as the first part of the subject of all emails. For additional information on email etiquette, [click here](#).

COURSE COPYRIGHT

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copyright 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

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USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT) is not permitted unless explicitly specified.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The role and nature of the government sector in the economy, the theory of public goods, the equity and efficiency effects of public expenditures, voting rules and fiscal politics, techniques of public expenditure analysis, and intergovernmental fiscal relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to help students achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Knowledge of concepts and principles underlying the analysis of public policy and government expenditures (public goods, externalities, increasing returns to scale, competition)
- Knowledge of Canadian institutions, including the structure of government in Canada
- Ability to analyze Canadian public policy using formal economic tools and models
- Improved writing skills, including improved ability to compare policy

PREREQUISITES AND PRECLUSIONS

Prerequisite(s): ECON 1001 and ECON 1002 or ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003.

Preclusion(s): Precludes additional credit for ECON 3003 (no longer offered) and ECON 3408 (no longer offered). Credit will not be given if taken concurrently with or after ECON 4402 (no longer offered) or ECON 4403.

TEXTBOOK

The course will follow *Public Finance in Canada* Harvey S. Rosen, Jean-Francois Wen, Tracy Snoddon. McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd., 6th Canadian Edition, available at the bookstore. We will use the learning and assignment tools provided by the publisher through the Connect platform. Specifically, I will assign study modules and assignment/quizzes at the end of each chapter through Connect. **To use Connect, class members must have an account, which is acquired through purchase of the e-Book or the access code provided with the print + digital package purchased through the university bookstore.** Used versions of the textbook, or avoiding purchase of the textbook, will not provide class members with this content.

COURSE EVALUATION

The course will be graded as follows:

Evaluation	Grade %	Date	Delivery
Quizzes	10	See description below	Remote
In-class Activities	20	See description below	Remote
Midterm Exam	20	July 23	In-person
Final Exam	50	Aug. 17-23	In-person

Quizzes: Starting in the second week of class, there will be one quiz per week, to be completed **in advance** of class time, based on assigned readings. The goal of this quiz is to provide an incentive to read the material in preparation for each week's lecture. The bottom two scores will be dropped to account for reasonable absences. Late quizzes are not accepted, and quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstances.

In-class Activities: Starting in the first week of class we will complete multiple in-class activities each week to test your understanding. Typically, students will be divided into small groups to complete these activities in class. Assignments are due at the end of each lecture. These activities will be provided in advance of each lecture and can be completed without attending class provided that they are submitted on time. The bottom two scores will be dropped to account for reasonable absences. Late quizzes are not accepted, and quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstances.

Midterm exam: The midterm exam will take place in-person on **Thursday, July 23rd**. If you must miss the midterm exam for any reason, you must inform me **in advance**. Failure to do so will result in a minor penalty. In all cases of approved absences, the weight from the midterm exam will be added to the final exam. There are no make-up exams.

Final exam: The final exam will be held during the university's final examination period, based on the material covered during the entire semester (cumulative exam).

In cases of serious illness/emergency or other circumstances that cause students to miss the final exam, students may petition the Registrar's Office to write a deferred exam. Students must make this petition no later than three (3) working days after the original final examination. In the interim, they will receive a grade of zero (0) for the final examination. If granted by the Registrar's Office, the deferred exam will take place during the time designated in Carleton University's calendar.

Final 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.

RE-MARKING

Any request for re-marking must be submitted in writing within one (1) weeks of the evaluation being returned to the class. Students should include in that request a detailed explanation of why they feel they should receive a higher mark. Re-marking will apply to the entire evaluation, not just the contentious part(s). As a result, the revised mark may be higher than, lower than, or the same as the original mark.

SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Students must fulfill all of the course requirements, including the final exam, in order to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher).

DISTANCE EXAMS

Students who are studying remotely or are varsity athletes with in-person tests or exams can apply to write their exam off-campus if they will be at least **160 km** away from campus on the exam day and meet the course requirements for distance exams.

There is a fee for this service, and all exams must be proctored.

The deadline to apply for a distance exam for the fall term is January 16.

You can find the **Distance Exam Request Form** here:

<https://carleton.ca/ses/examination-services/distance-exams/>

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

The course calendar below is subject to change. Depending on time and interest, more or less class time may be dedicated to different topics. Any changes to the course calendar will be communicated in class and through Brightspace.

Class	Date	Topic
1	July 2	Chapter 1: Intro to Public Finance in Canada Chapter 2: Fundamentals of Welfare Analysis
2	July 7	Chapter 3: Cost-Benefit Analysis
3	July 9	Chapter 4: Public Goods
4	July 14	Chapter 5: Externalities
5	July 16	Chapter 6: Income Redistribution
6	July 21	Chapter 7: Deficit Financing and Public Debt
7	July 23	Midterm Exam (in-person)
8	July 28	Chapter 8: Fiscal Federalism
9	July 30	Chapter 9: Health Care
10	Aug. 4	Chapter 10: Employment Insurance
11	Aug. 6	Chapter 11 – Public Pensions
12	Aug. 11	Chapter 12 – Provincial Income Assistance Programs
13	Aug. 13	Chapter 13 -Education
	Aug. 16 -23	Final examination period

CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CISCE)

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement (CISCE), formerly known as the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives, supports First Nations (status and non-status), Inuit, and Métis students, staff, and faculty by providing culturally safe spaces for dialogue and learning. The Centre provides weekly, monthly and annual programming for students and also develops and delivers resources and training to educate the Carleton community about Indigenous histories, worldviews and perspectives. To learn more about the services offered, please visit <https://carleton.ca/indigenous/cisce/students/>. If you have any questions, you can email Indigenous@carleton.ca

PLAGIARISM, RESOURCES AND MENTAL HEALTH, AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You are responsible for reading and knowing the information about plagiarism, Carleton University resources, and academic accommodations found [here](#).