

This course is a survey of the ways which local, state, and federal governments spend and raise revenues. In particular, we will evaluate social programs such as social security, unemployment insurance, and medicare. We will also examine ways in which governments raise revenues, including personal income taxes, taxes on corporations, retail taxes, and estate taxes and explore questions of efficiency versus equity.

### **Course Website**

To Be Announced

### **My Office Hours**

Mondays and Fridays 1-2pm, 531 Saunders Hall

### **Course Materials**

Required textbook: Harvey S. Rosen and Ted Gayer, *Public Finance*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2007.

Access to [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)

### **Requirements and Grades**

Final class grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes	20%
Paper project	40%
Final Exam	40%

There are no makeup quizzes. Students are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in class discussions. The final will be held according to the University's final exam schedule. There are NO MAKEUP EXAMS so it is essential that you be able to attend these dates. If you require any disability-related special accommodations for exams, please speak to me the first week of class so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

### **Lecture Schedule and Readings**

A complete reading schedule will be passed out the first week of instruction. The lecture schedule will roughly follow the order of topics followed in the Rosen and Gayer textbook.

### **Paper project**

Each student is required to select a topic discussed in the course and write a 15 to 25-page paper. The purpose of the exercise is to explore lecture topics in greater depth. Papers should ask a question, present a literature review, provide institutional details, propose answers to the question asked, critique answers given by other researchers, and draw conclusions.

I will ask you to make an appointment to meet with me to propose a topic for your paper sometime in March. Please bring a two-page proposal outlining your question to this meeting.

Further information on the paper will be provided in class during the semester.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam questions will follow the format of the quiz questions. The exam will be used to test knowledge of the material presented in lectures and in the textbook.