Economics 731: Applied Policy Methods

Al Link
Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00-12:15
Spring 2019

Objectives and Description of the Course

The Department of Economics is moving toward selected graduate and possibly undergraduate classes being taught on-line. This semester represents my first effort to transition Eco 731 from a traditional lecture class to an on-line class. Three other graduate classes are being transitioned this semester. For this class there will be both on-line modules for some of the materials relevant to the class, and lecture modules for other materials. Your understanding as well as your feedback will be greatly appreciated.

The objectives of this course are:

- To introduce the subject matter that falls under the rubric of applied policy methods, and
- To illustrate these methods through readings, class presentations, and class discussions that focus on program evaluation

I have assigned readings that cover a wide range of topics in an effort to meet what I expect are the diverse interests of the class. My priors in choosing these readings are that the topics covered in this course are new to students and that students are more likely in the future to be consumers rather than producers of policy analyses. Thus, my goal is to emphasize that, regardless of the subject matter, one should analyze policies on the basis of economic guidelines and principles.

The applied policy methods that we will study this semester relate to what is called “program evaluation.” I have selected that focus for two reasons: one, it is grounded in economic concepts, and two, it is heavily emphasized in today’s political environment.

Grading

Final course grade is subjective, and it will be based on:

- Class discussions
- Class presentations (1 each)
- Writing assignments/on-line modules (6)
- Term paper (1)

Contact Information

Office: Bryan 461
Email: anlink@uncg.edu (do not use CANVAS); please put Eco 731 in subject line
Readings and Assignments

All readings and assignments are posted on CANVAS.


U.S. Constitution (1776).


First On-line Module.


Second On-Line Module.


Third On-Line Module.


Fourth On-Line Module.


**Fifth On-Line Module.**


**Sixth On-Line Module.**


**Term Paper Assignment.**


**UNCG Honor Code**

Please familiarize yourself with the University honor code.  
http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/

**Faculty and Student Guidelines**

Please familiarize yourself with the Bryan School’s *Faculty and Student Guidelines*.  
http://www.uncg.edu/bae/faculty_student_guidelines.pdf
## Learning Objectives for the On-Line Modules

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Dimensions</th>
<th>Rubrics</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 Identify the costs, benefits and tradeoffs involved in economic policy making</td>
<td>Derive research questions concerning policy from conceptual and theoretical foundations; integrate institutional context into assessment of policy; identify private and social impacts of policy</td>
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<td>2.3 Compare and contrast alternative economic policy assessments to reach a defensible recommendation</td>
<td>Characterize differences in methodology and data used to assess policy; assess weaknesses and strengths of alternative approaches to policy assessment; propose and support an assessment of a policy-related body of research</td>
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<td>4.2 Present the motivation, methods and conclusions from applied economic research</td>
<td>Describe and motivate an applied economic research question; identify and explain why particular data and methods are appropriate for a given empirical analysis; interpret and communicate results of an empirical analysis</td>
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