Objectives and Description of the Course

The Department of Economics is moving toward MA classes (and selected undergraduate classes) being taught online beginning in Fall 2020. This course will be taught as an online course beginning in Spring 2021. To help with this transition, there will be online modules of this course throughout the semester. I have attempted to forecast factors that require me to be out of town (generally in DC), and I have built these obligations into the dates for the online assignments as much as possible. Because the online modules are, in a sense, experimental, I would very much appreciate one-on-one feedback and suggestions for improvements.

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 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 based on 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
• Writing assignments/online modules
• Term paper (major component) – due May 5
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 under Files.


U.S. Constitution (1776).


**UNCG Honor Code**

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

**Faculty and Student Guidelines**


**Learning Objectives for the Online Modules**

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<th>Learning Dimensions</th>
<th>Rubrics</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2.1</strong> 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><strong>2.3</strong> 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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