

ECON 672 — Public Finance: Taxation and Intergovernmental Relations Syllabus, Spring 2021

MEETING TIME Tuesday and Thursday, 9:50–11:05 a.m., Haslam 303.

FACULTY	Prof. Enda Patrick Hargaden	Prof. Donald Bruce
INFORMATION	Stokely Management Center 702	Stokely Management Center 717
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	Office Hours: Tuesday 4:05–5:05 p.m.	Office Hours: T/Th 1:30–2:30 p.m.
	Friday 10:00–11:00 a.m.	

COURSE DESCRIPTION Public Finance: Taxation and Intergovernmental Relations – Theory of taxation; tax incidence and tax efficiency; public good provision; optimal taxation; evasion, avoidance, and the elasticity of taxable income; policy analysis of U.S. tax structure at federal, state, and local levels. Theory of fiscal federalism and intergovernmental relations.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND ASSIGNMENTS Professor Hargaden will teach the first half of ECON 672, and Professor Bruce will teach the second half. The course grade will be based on two exams (one in class circa March 9 and one at the university-assigned final exam date/time, which is 8:00–10:15 a.m. on May 4), problem sets, presentations, participation, and a research project (due on the last day of class). No makeup exams will be given. More details on the project assignment are forthcoming. The reading list is subject to revision.

Problem Sets and Presentation (Hargaden):	20%
Exam 1 (Hargaden):	15%
Research Project (Hargaden):	15%
Presentations and Participation (Bruce):	10%
Exam 2 (Bruce):	25%
Research Project (Bruce):	15%

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC HONESTY “An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

DISABILITY Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 865-974-6087 in 2227 Dunford Hall to document their eligibility for services. ODS will work with students and faculty to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

COVID-19

If you need to be tested for COVID-19 because you are feeling sick or have been in close contact with someone who has been exposed, the Student Health Center provides diagnostic testing for students. If you get tested for COVID-19, you should begin self-isolating and follow university policies explained below.

If you are self-isolating or quarantining, do not come to class until you have been cleared to do so by your health care provider, the contact tracing team, or the Knox County Health Department. Your absences will be excused and accommodated only if you have followed the university's policy on self-isolation. To verify that you are following university policy, you will need to email a copy of the confirmation email you receive after submitting your self-isolation form. You do not need to provide any personal medical information.

If you begin to feel sick or you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, the first step is to begin self-isolating immediately and fill out the university's self-isolation form. The contact tracing team will follow up with you—generally within 24 hours, but the response time can vary depending on caseloads. You can read more about the university's self-isolation policy and procedures at <https://www.utk.edu/coronavirus/guides/how-and-where-to-self-isolate>.

READINGS

Textbooks

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Efficiency and Equilibrium Outcomes

Chapter 6 of Atkinson and Stiglitz.

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Optimal Commodity Taxation

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Optimal Income Taxation

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Avoidance and Evasion

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Consumption Taxation

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Fiscal Federalism, Tax Competition and Interactions Between Gov's

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