

The Economics of Public Choice

Economics 891

Section: G100

Term: 2010 Spring

Instructor: A. Kessler

Discussion Topics: This course gives an introduction in the field of political economy. It will be divided into two parts. The first part will consist of lectures that develop the key theoretical insights from the literature on policy determination in the political process. In the second part, students will present original research papers that are mostly concerned with empirical work and applications.

Grading: Grades are based on class presentations (30%), one exam (40%) and a written project (30%)

Required Texts:

Students will need a good working knowledge of microeconomic theory (in particular game theory and basic agency theory). Participants are expected to do a number of assigned readings. These are original articles that will be made available electronically and various chapters of the following textbooks which will be placed on reserve in the library.

Besley, T. (2006). *Principled Agents? Lectures on the Political Economy of Good Government*. Oxford University Press.

Persson, T. and G. Tabellini (2000). *Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy*. The MIT Press

Persson, T. and G. Tabellini (2003). *The Economic Effects of Constitutions*, The MIT Press

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities at 778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca

All students are expected to read and understand SFUs policies with regard to academic dishonesty (S 10.02 and S 10.03).

These policies are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/files/Students/S10.02.pdf>
and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/files/Students/S10.03.pdf>

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