

Lead for the Greater Good

INDIANA UNIVERSITY O'NEILL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

 SPEA-F560-6269
 Semester: Spring 2025

 Room: PV 278
 Hours: T/TH 09:35-10:50

Professor: Temirlan T. Moldogaziev, Ph.D. Office: SPEA 375H Office hours: T/TH 11:00-12:00 Email: temirlan@iu.edu

or by appointment

PUBLIC FINANCE AND BUDGETING

COURSE OVERVIEW & LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is a graduate level introduction to public finance and budgeting. The course is a survey course designed to provide future administrators with a thorough understanding of the finance and budgeting aspects of major public policy issues and programs. In addition, the course provides students that desire to take advanced public finance courses, the necessary background to do so. Students will learn three aspects of public finance: 1) public finance institutions, including interactions with and arrangements between government, private and not-for-profit sectors; 2) the "language" of public finance and budgeting; and 3) the ability to use the basic "tools" and "techniques" to analyze public finance problems. Students will acquire an understanding of public finance and budgeting through lectures, assigned readings and homework exercises, case discussions, discussion forums, and exams. Finally, you are required to keep up with current fiscal events by reading the appropriate magazines and newspapers, including the New York Times or Wall Street Journal.

REQUIRED READINGS

Mikesell, John L. and Justin M. Ross. "Fiscal Administration: Analysis and Applications for the Public Sector." (Cengage Learning, 11th edition, 2024/25).

IU eTexts: The instructor of this class is choosing to teach with IU eTexts. Enroll in this class and the discounted costs for the following materials (plus a once-per-term "IU eTexts User Fee" of \$4.00) will be added to your Bursar account as mandatory Course Fees. You will access your IU eTexts titles through your Canvas class page.

Fiscal Administration. 11th edition. 2024. Price: 51.99 USD.

Author: Mikesell, John: Ross, Justin

Publisher: Cengage. ISBN: 9798214135328

Congressional Budget Office. "An Update to the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2024 to 2034." June 18, 2024. (CBO)

Other readings, required and suggested, will be placed on Canvas as needed.

CLASS SCHEDULE

This class is structured as an in-person course that will be taught using In-Class, In-Person synchronous lectures. If, and when, necessary, ZOOM synchronous lectures, and Pre-Recorded Audio files may be utilized. Pre-Recorded lectures will be on Canvas by Noon of the previous day.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

In-person attendance and the discussion board postings are the way that each student "attends" and participates in this course. Student participation should occur based on the criteria included in the O'Neill School's Expectations of Civility & Professional Conduct (see below).

The O'Neill School takes matters of honesty and integrity seriously because O'Neill is the training ground for future leaders in government, civic organizations, health organizations, and other institutions charged with providing resources for the public, and for members of society who are vulnerable and who are lacking in power and status. Precisely because O'Neill graduates tend to rise to positions of power and responsibility, it is critical that the lessons of honesty and integrity are learned early.

O'Neill requires that all members of its community – students, faculty, and staff – treat others with an attitude of mutual respect both in the classroom and during all academic and nonacademic activities outside the classroom. A student is expected to show respect through behavior that promotes conditions in which all students can learn without interruption or distraction. These behaviors foster an appropriate atmosphere inside and outside the classroom:

- Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be prepared for class.
- Students must be punctual in their arrival to class and be present and attentive for the duration of the class. Eating, sleeping, reading the newspaper, doing work for another class, wandering in and out of the classroom, and packing up or leaving class early are not civil or professional behaviors.
- Students must abide by the course policy regarding use of electronic devices in the classroom.
- Students must responsibly participate in class activities and during team meetings.
- Students must address faculty members, other students, and others appropriately and with respect, whether in person, in writing, or in electronic communications.
- Students must show tolerance and respect for diverse nationalities, religions, races, sexual orientations, and physical abilities.
- Students must not destroy or deface classroom property nor leave litter in the classroom.

OFFICE HOURS & EMAIL POLICY

My office hours are T/TH from 11:00-12:00, and other days and times by appointment. These office hours are primarily for one-on-one meetings. Let me know by email when you'd like to meet and we'll set up either a Zoom appointment, meet in my office, or meet outside when

weather permits. I plan to return emails within 48 hours. If it's an important class matter, and if it's a direct question with a straightforward reply, I will try to get back with you sooner.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

You are expected to make an informed, productive contribution to the course. Your participation in class sessions should demonstrate a critical understanding of assigned readings. Also, you are expected to participate during Zoom lectures with your camera turned on. Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following:

Mid-term Exam:	30%
Discussion Forum:	20
Homework Problems:	10
Class Participation:	10
Final Exam:	<u>30</u>
TOTAL:	100%

There will be no make-up examinations. If an assignment is late, it will receive an automatic 20% deduction for each day that it is late.

EXAMINATIONS

The first exam covers material from Modules 1, 2, & 3. The second exam is comprehensive but will focus on Modules 4 & 5. Exams may include multiple choice and true/false questions, analytical problems involving mathematical calculations, and essay questions, but the precise format is left to the instructor's discretion. Exam questions will cover material from homework assignments and may cover substantive content from discussion forums.

HOMEWORK PROBLEMS

There will be periodic homework assignments at the end of each module. Answers will be placed on Canvas after the due date. Homework assignments are designed to help you prepare for the exams. Please note that homework assignments are subject to change. Each homework problem within a homework assignment will be given equal weight towards the homework portion of the course grade. Grades will be either satisfactory (2), partially satisfactory (1), or unsatisfactory (0). To receive a satisfactory grade, the problem must be answered in full by the assigned due date. The answer must be comprehensive/detailed, showing all necessary work.

The TA is primarily responsible for helping you with homework problems. Make sure you avail yourself of TA office hours to help you work through the homework problems as needed.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

There will be five online asynchronous discussion forums. Discussion forums will focus on contemporary public finance and budgeting problems and solutions and will require you to conduct external research in order to make an informed, productive contribution to the discussion. Each forum will be open for approximately two weeks. Most forums will open on a Tuesday at 11:00 and close on Tuesdays at 11:00 in two weeks.

Students will be split into teams, and a team will be assigned to lead a forum discussion. Each

group will consist of two-three members. After the forum is closed, each member of the lead team will be responsible for developing and presenting a slide presentation on the topic to the class. Your discussion forum grade will be based only on the discussion forum for which you have lead discussant responsibilities. Nevertheless, all students are expected to participate in all forums by posting responses to the instructor's general questions and responding to the comments of other students. Such participation will count towards your class participation score. Each member of the lead team is required to make at least four substantive posts, one of which must be in the first week.

Of your total discussion forum score, 70% will be based on the quantity and quality of your individual, written posts; and 30% will be a group score, which will be based on the in-class presentation of the lead team. Team responsibilities will include analytics, visuals and the oral presentation. Each team member will be designated a specific area of responsibility by the team. No more than two members will be designated to make the oral presentation. Each team will present for a maximum of fifteen minutes, and then we will have a Q&A session.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is critical to your success in the course. Please refer to student responsibilities at http://www.iu.edu/~code/. Also, please note the following about note selling and online course materials.

Note Selling: Several commercial services have approached students regarding selling class notes/study guides to their classmates. Selling the instructor's notes/study guides in this course is not permitted. Violations of this policy will be reported to the Dean of Students as academic misconduct (violation of course rules). Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment for which the notes/study guides are being sold, a reduction in your final course grade, or a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. Additionally, you should know that selling a faculty member's notes/study guides individually or on behalf of one of these services using IU email, or via Canvas may also constitute a violation of IU information technology and IU intellectual property policies; additional consequences may result.

Online Course Materials: The faculty member teaching this course holds the exclusive right to distribute, modify, post, and reproduce course materials, including all written materials, study guides, lectures, assignments, exercises, and exams. While you are permitted to take notes on the online materials and lectures posted for this course for your personal use, you are not permitted to re-post in another forum, distribute, or reproduce content from this course without the express written permission of the faculty member. Any violation of this course rule will be reported to the appropriate university offices and officials, including to the Dean of Students as academic misconduct.

Use of AI (such as ChatGPT) in this class: Using AI (such as ChatGPT) to assist in completing assignments will be allowed in a limited way as stated below. Keep in mind that a student who submits any ideas or materials taken from AI without full acknowledgment has committed plagiarism, as defined by IU.

"Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work, including the work of other students, as one's own. Any *ideas or materials taken from another source* for either written

or oral use *must be fully acknowledged*, unless the information is common knowledge. What is considered 'common knowledge' may differ from course to course." https://studentcode.iu.edu/responsibilities/academic-misconduct.html. (emphasis added).

So, the only way ChatGPT (or other AI) content can be used in this class without being in violation of IU's Rights and Responsibilities is if you cite the source and you either use quotation marks or cite the sources used by ChatGPT (if you take the material directly from ChatGPT). You have not committed plagiarism if you, for example, ask ChatGPT to find three articles on a particular topic (just like you could use Google Scholar to find three articles on the topic), read the articles, and cite the articles.

If the above is not clear, or you have any questions, I suggest you check with me prior to using AI in this course.

OTHER NOTES

Counseling and Psychological Services

For information about services offered to students by CAPS: https://healthcenter.indiana.edu/counseling/index.html

Religious Observation

In accordance with the Office of the Dean of Faculties, any student who wishes to receive an excused absence from class must submit a request form available from the Dean of Faculties for each day to be absent. This form must be presented to the course instructor by the end of the second week of this semester. A separate form must be submitted for each day. The instructor will fill in the bottom section of the form and then return the original to the student. Information about the policy on religious observation can be found at the following website: https://policies.iu.edu/policies/aca-59-accommodation-religious-observances/index.html

Disability Services for Students

Securing accommodations for a student with disabilities is a responsibility shared by the student, the instructor and the DSS Office. For information about support services or accommodations available to students with disabilities, and for the procedures to be followed by students and instructors: https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/student-support/disability-services/index.html

Sexual Harassment

As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus.

Title IX and our own Sexual Misconduct policy prohibit sexual misconduct. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help.

If you are seeking help and would like to talk to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with:

- i. The Sexual Assault Crisis Service (SACS) at 812-855-8900
- ii. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 812-855-5711

iii. Confidential Victim Advocates (CVA) at 812-856-2469

iv. IU Health Center at 812-855-4011

For more information about available resources:

http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/help/index.html. It is also important to know that federal regulations and University policy require me to promptly convey any information about potential sexual misconduct known to me to our campus' Deputy Title IX Coordinator or IU's Title IX Coordinator. In that event, they will work with a small number of others on campus to ensure that appropriate measures are taken, and resources are made available to the student who may have been harmed. Protecting a student's privacy is of utmost concern, and all involved will only share information with those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. I encourage you to visit http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/help/index.html to learn more.

Commitment to Diversity

Find your home and community at IU.

Asian Culture Center

Address: 807 East Tenth Street, Bloomington, IN 47408

Phone: 812-856-5361 Email: acc@indiana.edu

Website: https://asianresource.indiana.edu/index.html

First Nations Educational & Cultural Center Address: 712 E 8th St., Bloomington, IN 47408

Phone: 812-855-4814 Email: fnecc@indiana.edu

Website: https://firstnations.indiana.edu/contact/index.html

LGBTQ+ Culture Center

Address: 705 E 7th St., Bloomington, Indiana 47408

Phone: 812-855-4252

Email: glbtserv@indiana.edu

Website: https://lgbtq.indiana.edu/contact/index.html

La Casa Latino Culture Center

Address: 715 E 7th St., Bloomington IN, 47408

Phone: 812-855-0174 Email: lacasa@indiana.edu

Website: https://lacasa.indiana.edu/

Neal Marshall Black Culture Center

Address: 275 N Jordan Ave Bloomington, Indiana 47405

Phone: 812-855-9271

Email: nmgrad@indiana.edu

Website: https://blackculture.indiana.edu/index.html

Canvas

This syllabus, relevant additional reading materials, and assignments will be posted on Canvas. More on this will be communicated throughout the semester.

And...

It is the student's responsibility to keep all copies of graded/returned assignments for this course (in addition to electronic copies on Canvas). Should any misunderstandings arise, this will protect all the parties involved.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

January 13th through May 7th, 2025

The following describes the subject matter and reading assignments covered in this course. Topic and reading assignment dates are subject to limited change in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

1/14: **Introduction & Housekeeping**

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 1.

Fundamental Principles of Public Finance

MODULE I:

ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES AND THE FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT

1/16: Why Public Finance and Budgeting?

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 1.

Public Finance Versus Business Finance Functions of Government: Market Failures

Public Goods; Externalities

Incomplete Markets and Imperfect Information

1/21: Functions of Government: Economic Stabilization

What is the purpose of the Federal Reserve System? Video: What is the Fed?

(3:06). https://www.federalreserve.gov/fags/about 12594.htm.

Functions of Government: Redistribution Privatization: Why Privatize?

Versions of Privatization: Production/Provision

1/23: Building Public Choices from Individual Preferences

Politics, Representation, and Government Finance

The Layers of Government: Diversity and Coordination

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 14.

The Functions of Government in National Crisis

HW: chs. 1 & 14; Complete & Submit by 1/23

1/21-1/23: DISCUSSION TOPIC Module I:

PUBLIC POLICY AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

MODULE II:

1/28:

Public Budgeting, Methods, Practices

Size and Growth of Government Expenditure

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 2.

What Is a Budget?

Budget Process and Logic

The Parts of the Public Expenditure/Public Revenue Process

Budget Classification, Structure, and Presentation Years

Sidebar 2-1: Accounting for Inflation: Dividing Between Real Change and

Price Change.

Adjusting for Inflation (CV)

The Budget of a City Police Department: Organization, Items, and Years

1/30: Administrative and Functional Classification

What the Budget Process Should Contribute?

Delivering Those Budget Process Functions

Fiscal Resilience and Fiscal Sustainability

Budgets and Political Strategies

The Incrementalist Insight

Roles, Visions, and Incentives, Strategies

2/4: The Budget Cycle

Executive Preparation

Legislative Consideration

Execution

Audit and Evaluation

Government Accounting and Financial Reporting

Standards

Funds

Accounting Basis: Cash or Accrual

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

Monitoring & Auditing Financial Performance

2/6: Budget Methods and Practices

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 3.

Growth Rates and Simple Forecasts

Preparation of Agency Budget Requests

Budget Justification

Elements of Cost Estimation

Personnel Costs: Paying the Staff

Non-Personnel Costs

Screening for Errors

2/11: Review of Budgets

Reviewing a Budget Request The Budget Presentation

The Executive Budget: The Plan and the Balancing

Making Budget Reductions for Fiscal Sustainability

Managing Budget Execution

Internal Controls

An Intra-Year Cash Budget

Audit and Evaluation

What Audits Need to Prevent:

Some Methods of Stealing from Government

HW: chs. 2 & 3; Complete & Submit by **2/11**

2/6-2/11: DISCUSSION TOPIC MODULE II:

FISCAL POLICY GOALS: RESILIENCE OR SUSTAINABILITY?

MODULE III:

Federal (Central Government/Macro) Budgeting vs. Subnational Budgeting:

Fiscal and Financial Roles

2/13: Federal Budget Structures and Institutions

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 4.

Federal Spending and the Fiscal Control Record

Trends and Functions in Federal Spending

Deficits/Surpluses as a Record of Fiscal Control

Legal Framework for Federal Budgeting

United States Constitution

2/18: Federal Debt and Deficit Policy

Sidebar 4-1. The New Life of the Debt Limit: Political Chicken

Federal/Trust, On-Budget/Off-Budget

Federal Funds

Financial Markets: The Federal Government Debt Market

Money & Capital

Primary & Secondary

Types of Federal Debt, Debt Structure and Instruments

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 15

CBO, June 2024.

2/20: The Functions of the Central Government in National Crisis:

Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, Troubled Asset Relief Program & the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, COVID-19

2/25: Phases in the Federal Budget Cycle

Executive Preparation and Submission Phase Legislative Review and Appropriation Phase

Execution/Service Delivery

Audit

Sorts of Budget Authority

What happened to the Federal Budget Process?

Federal Budget History:

Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings

The Budget Enforcement Act of 1990

Sidebar 4-2: The Biggest Entitlements: Social Security and Medicare

Sidebar 4-3: How Much Is Enough? Relative to What?

Mandatory and Discretionary Spending

Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010

Budget Control Act of 2011

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019

More to come: DOGE future?

2/27: State and Local Budgets

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 5.

State and Local Spending: Services Delivered and Fiscal Control

Fiscal Control and Conditions

State and Local Budget Processes

Executive–Legislative Powers and Functions

Budget Features

Legal Constraints

Budget Balance Tricks

The Elephant in the Room: State and Local Pensions and Other Post-Employment Benefits

3/4: Budget System Reforms: Trying to Make Better Choices

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 6.

Considering the Flow of Provision of Government Services: The Logic of the

Service System and Budget Classifications

Traditional Budgets: A Flawed Tool for Decision-Making (But Pretty

Good for Control and Accountability)

Traditional Performance Budgets

Program Budgets

An Illustration of an Expenditure in Alternative Classifications

Phantom Balance and Deficit Reduction

3/6: Restructuring the Logic of Governments: New Performance Budgeting

New Performance Budgeting: Evidence Based and Outcomes Driven

Performance/Outcome-Budgeting Experience Some Challenges for New Performance Budgeting

Sidebar 6-3: Evidence Based Budgeting

Bargaining Reforms

The Zero-Based Budget System Budgeting with a Purpose Participatory Budgeting Priority-based Budgeting

HW: chs. 4, 5, & 6; Complete & Submit by 3/6

3/4-3/6: DISCUSSION TOPIC MODULE III:

WHY DO BUDGET REFORMS "FAIL"?

3/11: Catching up with Chapters 1-6; Midterm exam review

MID-TERM EXAM

3/18-3/20: SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES

MODULE IV:

Tools of Public Finance:

Time Value of Money

Capital Planning, Budgeting & Evaluation

Another Look at Government Accounting & Financial Reporting

3/25: Time Value of Money

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 7.

Simple and Compound Interest

Future and Present Value

The Annuity Formula—A Special Case

Johnson, Luby & Moldogaziev, Appendix A.

3/27 Why Have a Separate Capital Budget Process?

A Process for Managing Capital Expenditure

Planning Budgeting

Implementation/Execution

Audit

Problems in Capital Budgeting

4/1: Organizing Information for Choices: Cost–Benefit Analysis

Elements in Cost–Benefit Analysis

Some Special Problems of Cost–Benefit Analysis

Sidebar 7-3: An Application of Net Present Value to Evaluate a Capital Project

4/3: State and Local Government (Municipal) Debt

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 15.

Municipal Bonds, Tax-Exempt Interest, and the Tax Reform Act of 1986

A New Taxable Municipal Bond Option (Short-Lived)

Appropriate Debt Policy

Lease-Purchase Finance and Certificates of Participation

4/8: The Mechanics of Bond Values

Debt Structure and Design

Credit Ratings

Credit Enhancements

Underwriting, Interest Rates, and Ownership

When Government Finances Go Horribly Wrong: Debt and Other Claims

Default

Receivership/Emergency Managers

Bankruptcy Repudiation

4/10: Accounting for debt: Government Accounting and Financial Reporting

City of Indianapolis, ACFR

HW: chs. 7 & 15; Complete & Submit by **4/10**

4/8-4/10: DISCUSSION TOPIC MODULE IV:

"SMALL TOWN/BIG DEBT"—WHAT WENT WRONG WITH

INTERMEDIATION OF THE MUNIES?

MODULE V:

The Economics and Administration of Taxation

4/15: FEDERAL TAX RETURN DAY!

Taxation: Criteria for Evaluating Revenue Options

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 8.

Taxation in the United States: A Brief Overview of the Systems

Standards for Tax Policy

Adequacy of Revenue Production Equity: Horizontal and Vertical

Economic Efficiency

Collectability Transparency State and Local Taxes and Economic Development

Taxes and Externalities

4/17: The Argument over Taxing Income

For the System of Taxing Income

Against the System of Taxing Income

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 9.

Individual Income Taxation

Defining Income

Adjusted Gross Income

Personal Deductions

Taxable Income

Tax Rates

Tax Credits

Effective Tax Rates

Indexation

Tax Computation

The Individual Income Tax Gap

4/22: Corporate Income Taxation

Dividing the Profit Base among Governments

Integration of Corporate, Individual Income Taxes, and Distortion Problems

When Governments are Corporate Owners

Payroll Taxation

Working Remotely across States

4/24: Elements of Taxing Goods and Services

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 10.

Selective Excise Taxation

Luxury Excises

Sumptuary Excises

Benefit-Base Excises

Regulatory and Environmental Excises

Other Excises

General Taxes on Goods and Services: Retail Sales and Value-Added Taxes

Retail Sales Taxes

Exclusion of Producers' Goods

Taxation of Services

Commodity Exemptions

Variation in the State Sales Taxes

Sales Taxes and Internet Commerce: Remote Vendors and Use Taxes

Collecting the Retail Sales Tax

Value-Added Taxes

Value-Added Tax Features

Value-Added Tax versus Retail Sales Tax

4/29: Property Taxes: Good Tax, Bad Tax?

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 11.

Arithmetic and Application of Rates, Levies, and Assessed Value

Doing Assessments: Standards Doing Assessments: Cycles Doing Assessments: Approaches

Fractional Assessment and Measuring Assessment Disparity

Collecting the Tax

Property Tax Relief Mechanisms

Exemptions and Abatements Credits and Circuit Breakers

Deferrals

Classification

Limits and Controls

Tax Increment Financing

5/1: Revenue from Fines, Fees, Charges, and Sales by Public Monopolies

Mikesell & Ross, ch. 12.

Revenues from Regulatory Powers of the State

Licenses Penalties

Revenues from Sales for Services Rendered

Advantages of User Charges Limitations of User Charges

Charge Guidelines

Public Monopoly Revenue: Utilities, Liquor Stores, and Gambling Enterprises

Government Utilities

Liquor Stores

Government Gambling Enterprises: Lotteries and Offtrack Betting

HW: chs. 8 through 12; Complete & Submit by 5/1

4/29-5/1: DISCUSSION TOPIC MODULE V:

HORIZONTAL, VERTICAL, AND INTERGENERATIONAL INEQUITIES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF TAX BURDENS

5/6: FINAL EXAM: TBA