

PPOL 601- Foundations I- Analytical Foundations Course Outline

Course:	Public Policy 601 Foundations 1 Analytical Foundations	Term:	Fall 2015
Time:	August 10-14, 2015 Monday to Friday 9:00-12:00 and 1:30-4:00	Section:	01
Instructor:	Dr. Ron Kneebone	Place:	Downtown Campus Nexen Room 520 5 th Floor, 906-8 th Avenue SW
Office:	DTC 536, School of Public Policy	Telephone:	403-220-4603
Office Hours:	Monday to Friday 4:00 to 5:30	E-mail:	kneebone@ucalgary.ca

Required Textbooks:

Principles of Microeconomics and *Principles of Macroeconomics*, N.G. Mankiw, R.D. Kneebone, and K.J. McKenzie, Sixth Canadian Edition, Nelson Publishing, 2014.

Other Readings:

When you were accepted into the program you were sent a set of notes intended to provide you with some background in basic mathematics. The expectation is that you have reviewed the basic tools of mathematics described in that note. I will expect you to be comfortable with those basic concepts when we begin the course. Extra readings or applications of what we are discussing may be posted on the course web site (described below). You will be notified of these extra readings when they are posted.

Desire2Learn:

Desire2Learn, a web-based course management tool, will be used in this course. Students registered in this course can log in at: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/>. Note that D2L features a class e-mail list that will be used. I will use this email list to communicate with you as required. It is your responsibility to ensure that D2L uses the e-mail address of your choice.

Course Outline:

The goal of this course is to provide a foundation of basic economic principles. Other courses in the MPP program will build on this foundation. My assumption is that you have not previously taken a course in economics, or that it has been sometime since you took such a course, or that you feel it would be worthwhile to have a refresher course in basic economics, or, finally, that your first experience with economics was so horrible you would like another shot at it. By the end of our time together you should feel comfortable understanding the terms and tools of analysis used by economists and how these tools and ways of thinking are used to analyze problems in public policy.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Five (5) Assignments (Pass/Fail)

Due dates: Start of Class the next day.

Each of you will be assigned to a group. Each group will be required to complete and submit solutions to assignments questions. Each day a different member of each group will be assigned the responsibility of putting together the group's solution to the problem and submitting that solution for assessment. These group assignments will be circulated at the end of class each day and will be due the following morning. The grades for the assignments will be either "PASS" or "FAIL". To pass the course, each group must achieve a "PASS" on all five assignments. At the end of our week together, any assignments on which a group earns a grade of "FAIL" will be returned to the group and revised solutions requested until such time that an acceptable solution is submitted.

Grading: Letter grades as described in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar (see section E.1 of Calendar online) will be given for all elements of grade determination noted above. The course grade will be determined based on a weighted average of those grades according to the percentages shown above. In the event that elements are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, they will be converted to letter grades. As a guide to determining standing, the following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	97-100	B	75-79	C-	60-62
A	90-96	B-	70-74	D+	55-59
A-	85-89	C+	67-69	D	50-54
B+	80-84	C	63-66	F	0-49

Schedule of Topics for 10 Sessions (Each Session is 2.5 hours in duration):

Day One:

Session 1: Thinking like an Economist

Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of *Principles of Microeconomics*

Note: This includes the math and graph appendix to Chapter 2.

Session 2: Demand and Supply: How Markets Work

Chapters 4 and 5 of *Principles of Microeconomics*

Day Two:

Session 3: Markets, Welfare and Government Policy
Chapters 6 and 7 of *Principles of Microeconomics*

Session 4: Taxation and Trade
Chapters 8 and 9 of *Principles of Microeconomics*

Day Three:

Session 5: Dealing with Externalities and Poverty
Chapters 10 and 20 of *Principles of Microeconomics*

Session 6: Published and other examples of Basic Policy Analysis
- Using basic ideas and methods to do useful policy analysis

Day Four:

Session 7: Thinking Big: Macroeconomics
Chapters 5, 6 and 9 of *Principles of Macroeconomics*

Session 8: The Simple Arithmetic of Government Finances
Lecture Notes to be provided

Day Five:

Session 9: Economic Growth and Inflation
Chapter 7 of *Principles of Macroeconomics* and Lecture Notes to be provided.

Session 10: The Business Cycle
Chapters 14 and 15 of *Principles of Macroeconomics* and Lecture Notes to be provided.

Important Notes:

- The School of Public Policy expects the highest standards of professional conduct by students, faculty and staff. Abusive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. This includes any expression of prejudice in any of its forms.
- It is the student's responsibility to be fully aware of the academic regulations outlined in the University Of Calgary Faculty Of Graduate Studies Calendar. Provisions regarding Student Misconduct (plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct) will be strictly enforced. Please review the University of Calgary's Regulations on Plagiarism, Cheating and Other Academic Misconduct, online:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html>
- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor *within fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.
- Examinations will not be given prior to the scheduled date.
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. The Student Accessibility Services website is here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>
- All material used in this course is for the sole use of the individual and should not be recopied in either print or digital format. For copyright guidelines, including those

relating to photocopying and electronic copies, please refer to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) fair dealing guidelines.

<http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright/fair-dealing>

- The University of Calgary complies with the requirements of the *Freedom of Information and Privacy Act*. The University's policy on the sharing of student information with third parties can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/pg-pi-of-students-to-3rd-parties.pdf>. The University's policy on the sharing of student information with the subject can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/pg-pi-of-student-to-subject.pdf>
- In the event of an emergency, students may be required to evacuate the building. If evacuation is ordered, follow these procedures:
 - Stay calm, do not rush, and do not panic.
 - Safely stop your work.
 - Gather your personal belongings if it is safe to do so. (keys, purses, jackets, cell phones, etc. It may be hours before you are allowed back in the building.)
 - If safe, close your office door and window, but do not lock them.
 - If directed by wardens, follow their instructions.
 - Use the closest emergency exit. Do not use the elevator.
 - Proceed to the designated Emergency Assembly point in front of the Holiday Inn on 8th avenue to the west of the Downtown Campus.
 - Do not re-enter the building or work area until you have been advised by emergency responders that it is safe to do so.

Graduate Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

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Fax: 403 282-8992

Emergency Assembly Point

Holiday Inn Lobby (weather permitting)

1020 8th Avenue SW

Calgary, Alberta T2P 1J2

Or remain at nearest exit point

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

