

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

The School of Public Policy

PUBP 808-001

ADVANCED ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND POLICY RESEARCH

SPRING 2004

Basic Course Information

Instructor: Wayne D. Perry
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Office Hrs: TBA.

Office: Finley Building, 212
E-mail: wperry@gmu.edu
Meeting: Thursday, 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.

Suggested Prerequisites

PUBP 705, PUBP 720, or equivalent

Required Texts

Gramlich, Edward, *A Guide to Benefit-Cost Analysis*, 2nd edition, Waveland Press, 1998
Wolf, Charles, Jr., *Markets or Governments*, 2nd edition, MIT Press, 1997.

Friedman, Lee, S. *The Microeconomics of Public Policy Analysis*, Princeton University Press, 2002.

References

Cohen, Kalman and Cyert, Richard, *Theory of the Firm*, Prentice Hall, 1965.

Haverman, Robert, and Julius Margolis, *Public Expenditure and Policy Analysis*, 3rd edition, Houghton Mifflin, 1983

Luenberger, David, *Microeconomic Theory*, McGraw Hill, 1995.

Mansfield, Edwin, *Managerial Economics*, 4th edition, W.W. Norton, 1999.

Varian Hal, *Intermediate Microeconomics*, 5th edition, W.W. Norton, 1999.

Objectives

This seminar covers the use of advances in microeconomic theory and analysis for public policy research. This is a useful approach to develop a research framework for considering the market and non-market outcomes of government programs and policies. The specific theories and analysis presented include managerial economics, welfare economics, public choice, price, consumer choice and demand, supply and production, benefit-cost analysis, cost effectiveness, and optimization modeling. These theories and methods will be used to develop a conceptual approach for studying public policies such as, environment, health, defense, energy, technology, and welfare (based on student research interests). The focus will be to compare and contrast both market and non-market failures i.e., specifically efficiency and equity criteria will be evaluated.

Requirements

Students are expected to be in the process of developing a doctoral field statement or dissertation proposal. The students will present and discuss the appropriate empirical economic and related policy analysis literature. Classmates and the instructor will review the relevant articles and other references. Finally, each student will write and present research prospectus associated with a substantive policy issue.

Plagiarism

All work must be your own. Inappropriate use of the work of others without attribution is plagiarism and a George Mason University Honor Code violation punishable by expulsion from the University. All students should familiarize themselves with this honor code provision (<http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html>). To guard against plagiarism and to treat students equitably, written work may be checked against existing published materials or digital databases available through various plagiarism detection services. Accordingly materials submitted to all courses must be available in electronic format.