

This course is a survey of the ways which local, state, and federal governments spend and raise revenues. In particular, we will evaluate social programs such as social security, unemployment insurance, and medicare. We will also examine ways in which governments raise revenues, including personal income taxes, taxes on corporations, retail taxes, and estate taxes and explore questions of efficiency versus equity.

Course Website

To be announced.

My Office Hours and Email

Mondays 12-1pm and Fridays 1-2pm, 531 Saunders Hall

Email: kwaks (at) hawaii (dot) edu

Course Materials

Required textbook: Harvey S. Rosen and Ted Gayer, *Public Finance*, 8th Edition.

Access to www.jstor.org

Requirements and Grades

Final class grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes	10%
Problem Sets	20%
Paper project	20%
Final Exam	50%

There are no makeup quizzes. Students are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in class discussions. The final will be held according to the University's final exam schedule. There are NO MAKEUP EXAMS so it is essential that you be able to attend these dates. If you require any disability-related special accommodations for exams, please speak to me the first week of class so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

Paper project

Each student is required to select a topic discussed in the course and write a 10 to 15-page paper. The purpose of the exercise is to explore lecture topics in greater depth. Papers should ask a question, present a literature review, provide institutional details, propose answers to the question asked, critique answers given by other researchers, and draw conclusions.

I will ask you to make an appointment to meet with me to propose a topic for your paper sometime in March. Please bring a two-page proposal outlining your question to this meeting.

Further information on the paper will be provided in class during the semester.

Lecture Schedule and Problem Sets

Week 1

- 1/11 (M) **Course Overview**
Rosen, Ch 1
- 1/13 (W) **Tools**
Rosen, Ch 2, 3

Week 2

- 1/18 (M) **Holiday**
No class
- 1/20 (W) **Public Goods**
Rosen, Ch 4

Week 3

- 1/25 (M) **Externalities**
Rosen Ch 5
- 1/27 (W) **Externalities**
Rosen Ch 5

Week 4

- 2/1 (M) **Political Economy**
Ch 6
- 2/3 (W) **Political Economy**
Ch 6

Week 5

- 2/8 (M) **Education**
Rosen, Ch 7
- 2/10 (W) **Education**
Rosen, Ch 7

Week 6

- 2/15 (M) **Holiday**
No class
- 2/17 (W) **Cost-Benefit Analysis**
Rosen, Ch 8

Week 7

- 2/22 (M) **Health Care**
Rosen, Ch 9
- 2/24 (W) **Health Care**
Rosen, Ch 9

Week 8

- 3/1 (M) **Health Care**
Rosen, Ch 10
- 3/3 (W) **Social Security**
Rosen, Ch 11

Week 9

- 3/8 (M) **Social Security**
Rosen, Ch 11
- 3/10 (W) **Income Redistribution**
Rosen, Ch 12

Week 10

- 3/15 (M) **Welfare**
Rosen, Ch 13
- 3/17 (W) **Welfare**
Rosen, Ch 13
- SPRING BREAK**

Week 11

- 3/29 (M) **Tax Incidence**
Rosen, Ch 14
- 3/31 (W) **Tax Incidence**
Rosen, Ch 14

Week 12

- 4/5 (M) **Taxation and Efficiency**
Rosen, Ch 15
- 4/7 (W) **Optimal Taxation**
Rosen, Ch 16
- *** Paper proposal DUE***

Week 13

- 4/12 (M) **Personal Income Taxation**
Rosen, Ch 17, 18
- 4/14 (W) **Personal Income Taxation**
Rosen, Ch 17, 18

Week 14

- 4/19 (M) **Corporate Taxation**
Rosen, Ch 19
- 4/21 (W) **Deficit Finance**
Rosen, Ch 20

Week 15

- 4/26 (M) **Wealth Taxes**
Rosen, Ch 21
- 4/28 (W) **Fiscal Federalism**
Rosen, Ch 22

Week 16

- 5/3 (M) **Last Lecture-- Review**
Paper project DUE