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## UST 300 – Economics of Policy Analysis

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**Fall 2017**  
**Tuesdays, 6-8:50 PM, 3 credits**  
**Location: UR 25**

**Instructor:** Dr. Ganning  
**email:** j.ganning@csuohio.edu  
**Office:** UR 222

**Office hours:**  
Wednesdays 1:30-3  
or by appointment

**TA:** Lydia Benish  
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### **Course Description**

Introduction to microeconomic theory and its application to urban and regional policy issues; investigates behavior, outcomes and markets; builds the analytical tools to study policies and issues such as income distribution, poverty, price discrimination, health care, municipal finance, and pollution.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Those students who are successful in mastering the material from lectures, readings, exercises, exams, and discussions should come away from the course with the following skills and knowledge:

1. *A working knowledge of foundational microeconomic principles.*
2. *An understanding of the connection between theory and practice.* Students will learn how microeconomic concepts are used (or not used!) in public decision making, especially in urban development.

### **Material Requirements**

The following is a required book for the class:

Galster, G. (2012). *Driving Detroit: The quest for respect in the motor city*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Other course readings will be posted to Blackboard or are available via electronic reserve at the library.

### **Course Requirements & Grades**

Course-related files will be provided via Blackboard to the extent reasonable. Be sure to check Blackboard regularly for course updates and materials.

While I encourage students to work together in class, assignments are to be turned in individually and should represent each student's individual work unless explicitly directed otherwise in this syllabus. Refer to the University's policies on academic misconduct, or ask if you have questions.

## Grading

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Assignments	15%
Midterm #1	20%
Midterm #2	20%
Hands-On Learning Project	20%
Final Exam	25%

CSU uses the following letter grades. In the Levin College the letter grades follow this numeric scale:

94 through 100: A  
90 through 93: A-  
87 through 89: B+  
83 through 86: B  
80 through 82: B-  
77 through 79: C+  
70 through 76: C  
60 through 70: D  
59 and below: F

The “I” grade (Incomplete) is given when the work in a course has been generally passing, but when some specifically required task has not been completed through no fault of the student. An “I” grade can be assigned by the instructor when all three of the following conditions are met:

1. Student is regularly attending/participating in the class and has the potential to pass the course;
2. Student has not completed all assignments and has stopped attending/participating for reasons deemed justified by the instructor; and
3. Student has notified the instructor prior to the end of the grading period

**Note:** Grammar, writing style, and presentation are evaluated in all written exercises. If you are unsure of your writing abilities, please use the CSU writing center. Grading includes the presentation of all tables, spelling, writing style, and grammar.

## Late Work, Special Needs and Circumstances

I recognize that you are all busy with many demands on your time. Should life circumstances arise that make regular attendance unlikely or impossible, please consult the College’s Advisor or Assistant Dean for Student Services. They can direct you to the University’s available resources and help you to navigate moving forward with coursework.

Absences will be considered excused if they meet the University policy for excused absences or by instructor discretion, and excused absences will impact due dates at the instructor’s discretion *and when consulted prior to the due date*. Otherwise, **there is a 10% penalty for each day an assignment is late**. Assignments will not be accepted more than one week past their due date. Some activities, such as exams and in-class presentations, require attendance to participate and

receive a grade. Make-up opportunities will not be provided for these activities for unexcused absences.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216) 687-2015. The Office is located in MC 147. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.

### **A Note on Misconduct**

According to University Policy 3344-21-02, “Academic misconduct refers to any fraudulent actions or behaviors that affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or record of academic progress.” This includes cheating, plagiarism, and tampering. For a full description of terms and procedures in the event that faculty discover academic misconduct, refer to [http://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/3344-21-02\\_0.pdf](http://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/3344-21-02_0.pdf).

While students should read the student code in its entirety, emphasis is additionally placed upon review of definitions and procedures involving disruption, harassment, and sexual misconduct, found at: <http://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/3344-83-04%20-%20eff.%208-17-15.pdf>.

I reserve the right to remove from the classroom any student who chooses to engage in disrespectful or disruptive behavior.

### **Class Schedule**

August 29—Introductions and course overview. Brief History of Microeconomic Thought

Read for today:

Harrison, Bennett. 1992. “Industrial Districts: Old Wine in New Bottles?” *Regional Studies* 26(5): **read only pages 472-474** (the sections “Scale Economies, Externalities...”, and “Innovation, Growth Poles and Industrial Structure”).

September 5—*Driving Detroit* chapters 1-4

September 12—*Driving Detroit* chapters 5-9  
Assignment #1 distributed

September 19—Supply and Demand  
Assignment #1 due

Reading for today: Chapter 4 from *Principles of Microeconomics*. 7th Edition (2015) N. Gregory Mankiw. Southwestern.

*This book is available at the library for 2 hour checkout in the textbooks section on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Chapter 4 has also been placed on electronic reserve.*

Review for Midterm Exam

September 26—Price Elasticity (will be covered on Midterm #2)  
Midterm Exam #1

October 3—Role of Government, Economic Efficiency, and Ethics  
Reading for today: Keohane and Olmstead, Chapter 2  
*Available full text online through the library*

October 10—No class, Columbus Day

October 17— Market Failures and Market Evaluation  
Reading for today: Keohane and Olmstead, Chapters 3 and 5

October 24— Regulating Pollution (or anything, almost) and Pigouvian policy  
Reading for today: Keohane and Olmstead, Ch. 8, Ch. 9 (pp.153-161)  
Assignment #2 distributed

October 31—Bringing it together: regionalism, education, and household decision-making  
Assignment #2 due  
Review for Midterm

November 7—  
Midterm Exam #2

November 14— Labor economics  
Reading TBA

November 21—Hands-On Policy Analysis Day 1

November 28—Hands-On Policy Analysis Day 2  
Group presentations beginning at ~7:30pm

December 5—An introduction to macroeconomic theory and why it matters so much for cities  
Review for final exam

**Final exam:** December 12 at 6pm in our regular classroom