CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs
SPRING SEMESTER 2006

SYLLABUS
BUDGETARY POLICY
UST 459

Time/Place: Wednesday 6:00 - 9:50 p.m. UR #27
Instructor: Sylvester Murray
Office/hours: UR 222. Tuesday and Wednesday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
          or by appointment, please call first
Phone/e-mail: 216 687-2254 murray@urban.csuohio.edu

TEXT BOOK:
David Nice, 2002, Public Budgeting, Wadsworth Publishers

Additionally, articles and documents passed out in class are required reading.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will explain the policies and politics of public budgeting, major revenue sources and
spending patterns at the national, state and local levels of United States government, the phases
of creating and adopting a budget, and the relationship between budgeting and the economy.
Teaching methods will include lectures, group discussions, quest speakers, written reports, oral
presentations, field trip experiences and examinations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
A. Attendance and punctuality are expected in all classes. If an absence is essential, the student is
still responsible for any assignments made or due during his/her absence.

B. Participation is essential to learning, so reading assignments prior to class and collegial
interaction among classmates in class are all expected.

C. Prepare and submit all written assignments according to instructions. A lesser grade will be
given if instructions are not followed, and ten points (10) will be deducted on assignments turned
in late. Papers must be word processed, double spaced, grammar and spell checked.

D. No gum chewing and no yawning in class. You may drink, snack, stand or leave the room.

COURSE GRADING
GRADE SCALE
Assignments  40%          A  94 - 100           B+  86 - 89
Mid Term Exam 30%           A-  90 - 93           B  80 - 85
Final Exam   30%              C  70 - 79           D  60 - 69
COURSE SCHEDULE

January 18  Orientation and review of budget policies and documents

January 25  The Nature of Public Budgeting. Nice, Chapter 1

February 1  Government Revenues, Spending and Borrowing. Nice, Chapter 2
Special Reading: “Basics of Municipal Budgeting and Accounting”
Cities and Villages of Ohio Municipal League

February 8  The Budget Cycle: A Brief Introduction. Nice, Chapter 3
Field Experience for Assignment “A”
Attend a City Council Budget Hearing or Interview a Public Finance Director.
Write a paper which highlights the theories and/or strategies used by the entity
to accomplish a particular budget goal.
Nice, chapter 1 must be your guide in writing the paper. 20% of grade

February 15  The Format of the Budget Proposal. Nice, Chapter 4

February 22  Techniques of Budgetary Analysis. Nice, Chapter 5

March 1  Turn in Assignment A  Make Verbal Presentations

March 8  No Class  Take Home Midterm due by 5:00 p.m. March 10th 30% of Grade

March 22  Budget Adoption  Nice, Chapter 6

March 29  Budget Execution  Nice, Chapter 7

April 5  Financial Management  Nice, Chapter 8

April 12  The Economy and the Budget  Nice, Chapter 9

April 19  Intergovernmental Aspects of Public Budgeting Nice, Chapter 10

April 26  Assignment “B” due tonight and prepare to read in class 20% of grade
Write a four or more page paper analyzing some aspect of the Federal Budget
proposal for 2007. You must use lessons learned from Nice chapters 5 and 9
in your paper.

May 3  The Frustration of Budget Reform  Nice, Chapter 11
Review for Final Examination

May 10  Final Examination. In class. 30% of grade