

# **Econ 4330 Syllabus**

## **Prof. M. Finney**

This course, entitled *Economics of the Public Sector*, examines how government expenditure, taxation and regulatory policies affect the distribution of goods and services. Economics is the study of the distribution of scarce resources. Markets (the interaction of individual consumers and producers) play a large role in determining that distribution. There are, however, circumstances in which markets fail. We will study such topics as the justification for government's role in markets, voting, and the marginal impact of taxation on producer and consumer behavior.

---

The text for the course is **Public Finance and Public Policy** (7th edition) by Jonathan Gruber.

**Econ 4330**, meets in room SH 165 from 4:30 to 5:45pm Monday/Wednesday. My office hours are 3:00-4:00pm Monday and Wednesday; and 3:15-3:45pm Friday.

Office Location: Simpson Tower Room 909  
email: mfinney5@calstatela.edu

---

**I. Introduction to the Economics of Government** [notes](#)  
Chapter 1

**II. Supply/Demand and the Concept of Efficiency** [notes](#)  
Chapter 2, p.

**III. Externalities** [notes](#)  
Chapter 5 sections 5.1 and 5.3

**IV. Remedies to Externalities and Coase Theorem** [notes](#)  
Chapter 5 sections 5.2 and 5.4

[Quiz](#)

**V. Public Goods** [notes](#)  
Chapter 7

**VI. Public Choice and the Median Voter** [notes](#)  
Chapter 9 p.

[Midterm](#)

**VII. Overview of Federal Government Income Support Programs**

- A. Means Tested Programs [lecture](#)  
Chapter 17
- B. Non-means Tested Programs [lecture](#)  
Chapter 12 section 12.1, Chapter 13

**VIII. Government and Health Care** [lecture](#)  
Chapters 15 and 16

**IX. Government Finance and Analysis of Taxation [notes](#)**

Chapter 18 sections 18.1, 18.2, 18.3 and 18.6, Chapter 19 section 19.1

**X. Federal Budget Deficit and Government Debt [notes](#)**

Chapter 4

**[Final Exam](#)**

There will be a midterm and final exam. The exams will consist of some problem solving, and short essay questions. The two essay assignments will be done in-class. There will also be one homework and one quiz (taken through Canvas).

**Grade Distribution**

---

Midterm	30%
Final Exam	30%
Final Essay Assignment	15%
Social Insurance Assignment	15%
Homework	5%
Quiz	5%

---