

PUBPOL 517 Section A

CDH 135, M/W 8:30-9:50, Winter 2020

Instructor: Ben Glasner	TA: Elizabeth Esborn
Email: bglasner@uw.edu	Email: eesborn@uw.edu
Ben's Hours: Wed 2-3:30pm & Fri 10-11:30am, CDH 315	TA's Hours: Wed, 11:30am-1:30pm, CDH 313
Quiz AA: Thursday 11:30 - 12:20, CDH 115	Quiz AB: Thursday 12:30 - 1:20, CDH 110A

Ben's Info

I am a 4th year PhD candidate here at the Evans school, and I will be the primary instructor. I use he, him, his, pronouns and I am a straight cisgendered white male. My research is focused on nonstandard work arrangements, labor policy, and labor economics.

Elizabeth's Info

I am a 2nd year MPA candidate at the Evans School, focusing on social policy and analysis and evaluation. I'll be serving as your TA. I am a cisgender white woman and use she/her pronouns. My professional background is primarily in youth development, community outreach, and grant administration.

1 Course Requirements and Grading

20%: In-class quizzes.

35%: In-class Midterm Exam on Wednesday, February 5th.

45%: Final Exam at 8:30-10:20 a.m. Tuesday, March 17th.

There will be 6 in-class quizzes. The quiz dates can be found in the calendar at the end of this document. These quizzes will contain 2 questions. You can choose to do either one or both questions and you will receive the higher grade

from either question. Also, I will drop your lowest quiz grade. Finally, these quizzes will be graded such that honest effort will receive a minimum of 2.0.

Every week I will have a set of practice problems available on the canvas site related to the next quiz. Working through problems is an essential part of learning economics. Group work is encouraged. These practice problems will not be graded and answer keys will be available after the in-class quiz. All exams and quizzes are closed-book and closed-notes. That is, you may only have pencils, pens, a ruler or straight-edge, and use of the calculators that we provide.

2 Course Description

This course will deepen your understanding of microeconomic theory and develop your skills in applying it to public policy and management issues. This course builds upon the individual choice theory developed in 516 and how individual choice works in the context of markets. This course will focus on both the problems (and opportunities) that market based exchange affords in allocating scarce resources in a variety of situations encountered in real world policy analysis and management – situations in which decision makers need to consider the time profile of costs and benefits, ownership rights may not be complete, information is imperfect, or outcomes are uncertain. This course will also explore the difference between economic models as tools for analysis and as descriptions of the world. This course should equip you to better identify the advantages and disadvantages of using an economic framework for policy analysis.

3 Prerequisites

Successful completion (or approved waiver) of PUBPOL 516: Economics for Policy Analysis and Management I.

4 Course Texts

Microeconomics 7th Edition, by Jeffrey M. Perloff, ISBN 978-0-13-345691-2, ©2015. Additional readings or resources will be listed in a separate supplemental readings document on canvas or on my web page.

5 Disability Academic Accommodations

If you have an academic accommodation from the UW Disability Resources for Students office, please inform us as soon as possible. We will do everything we

can to ensure that everyone has a safe, comfortable, and accessible space for learning and evaluation.

6 Schedule

Week #	Dates and Quiz	Topics	Readings
1	1/6	Introduction, Edgeworth Box, Efficiency and Exchange	TEXT Ch. 10.2, 10.3, 10.5, 16.1, 16.2, 16.4
	1/8	Benefit-Cost Analysis, and Discounting	
2	1/13	Benefit-Cost Analysis, and Discounting.	TEXT Ch. 16.1, 16.2, 16.4, Ch.18
	1/15 Quiz	Property Rights and Externalities	
3	1/20 MLK jr.	Externalities and Public Goods	TEXT Ch.18
	1/22 Quiz		
4	1/27	Public Goods, Open access/common property	TEXT Ch.18
	1/29 Quiz	Comparing Environmental Policies	
5	2/3	Uncertainty and Choice Under Uncertainty	TEXT: Ch. 17
	2/5 Midterm		

Week #	Dates and Quiz	Topics	Readings
6	2/10 2/12	Uncertainty and Choice Under Uncertainty	TEXT: Ch. 17
7	2/17 Pres. Day 2/19 Quiz	Insurance & Adverse Selection	TEXT: Ch. 17, Ch. 19
8	2/24 2/26 Quiz	Insurance & Adverse Selection Contracting & Principle Agent	TEXT: Ch. 17, Ch. 19, Ch. 20
9	3/2 3/5 Quiz	Theory Discussion Applied Case Studies: Labor	
10	3/10 3/12	Applied Case Studies: ACA Applied Case Studies: 2008 Recession	
Final	3/17	8:30-10:20 a.m.	If this changes I will alert the class