

**TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
A.R. SANCHEZ, Jr. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL BANKING AND FINANCE STUDIES**

**COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING, 2011**

Course: *Special Issues in Economics: Fiscal Federalism (ECO 5399)*
Instructor: *Pablo Camacho, Ph. D.*
Office Hours: *WHTC 206D (956) 326-2516; M & W 6:00pm – 7:30 pm*
E-mail: *Best way to contact is by email through Angel, but may also contact at pcamacho@tamiu.edu*
Other Contact: *Students are encouraged to contact me through Facebook and Twitter, as well as participate in my blog. My webpage at www.tamiu.edu/~pcamacho/ contains the links to such social networks*

Recommended Texts:

Rosen, Harvery; Public Finance, McGraw-Hill/Irwin.
Boadway, Robin; Public Sector Economics, Little, Brown Publisher.
Mankiw, Gregory; Principles of Economics, South-Western College Pub.
Varian, Hal R.; Intermediate Microeconomics, W. W. Norton & Company
Assigned journal articles.

Prerequisite: *ECO 5310 and permission of instructor.*

Course Description:

This course examines selected current topics in areas related to contemporary economic systems. It may cover either micro- or macroeconomic issues, and can be used to introduce new economic issues to interested students. May be repeated once when topic changes. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. (Catalog course description.)

Course Goal: *The course's main goal is for students to work with the instructor in order to produce a research paper in the area of Fiscal Federalism.*

Learning Outcomes/Objectives:

1. *Students will be able to evaluate different taxes and government programs according to both efficiency and equity criteria.*
2. *Students will be able to discuss the optimal allocations of taxes and spending responsibilities across different layers of government.*
3. *Students will be able to analyze the response of recipient governments to alternative intergovernmental grants.*
4. *Students will use statistical analysis in the research project.*

Grading Policy

Students notes	30 points each	A: $90 \leq \text{points}$
Student presentation(s)	10 points	B: $80 \leq \text{points} < 90$
Research paper(s)	50 points	C: $70 \leq \text{points} < 80$
		D: $60 \leq \text{points} < 70$
		F: $60 > \text{points}$

Attendance Policy:

Students and instructor will meet at least once a week.

Other course policies:

Students Notes: Student will produce a summary of assigned readings. This items also include data collection, information inquiry, etc.

Student presentation: Students will produce and present a power point presentation of the research paper(s).

Classroom Behavior

The A.R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. ARSSB will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class. Major disruptive behavior will be penalized, after one warning per semester, by subtracting points from the overall final grade of the disruptive student in progressively larger 5-points (e.g., minus 5 points for the first offense; minus 10 points for the second offense, etc.). You will be given clear warning when your behavior is becoming disruptive.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment.

Copyright laws do allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such an article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as one's own. Recently, the Internet has complicated the picture. Getting something from the Internet and presenting it as one's own is still plagiarism. Copying another student's paper or a portion of the paper - is usually called "copying". Neither plagiarism nor copying will be tolerated. Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the students will receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter may, if necessary, be referred to the TAMIU Honor Council for possible disciplinary action.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Disabilities Services Coordinator located in the Student Counseling Center and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

Safety and Security- You are the Difference

Your safety and security are of prime concern here at Texas A&M International University, and the University police department work hard to ensure the campus is a safe place to live, learn, work and play. TAMIU is not, however, exempt from crime. To be safe and secure, you must take common sense precautions. Be alert and aware of those around you; look out for the safety of others. Do not leave valuables unattended; do not attempt to touch or interfere with our wildlife.

Student Responsibility For Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to drop the course before the drop date. Faculty are not responsible for dropping students who suspend class attendance.

Final Examination

The University requires all final Examinations be comprehensive and be given on the day specified.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS AS NEEDED AND WITH NOTIFICATION TO STUDENTS

Course Calendar:

Detailed calendar of assignments will be discussed on a weekly basis.

The topics to be covered in the course are the following:

- Consumer Theory.
- Welfare Economics.
- Fiscal Federalism.
- Review of Statistics and Regression Analysis.