

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics
Fall 2026

Course # and Title:

Public Finance I – ECON 4070 3.00 A

Course Webpage:

Will be available through eClass.

Course Instructor/Contact:

Name: Mat Brzozowski
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Email: brzozows@yorku.ca use your York email account when contacting the professor.
Phone: 416-736-2100 Ext: 20152

Office Hours: Thursday: 5:00-6:00PM, VH 1086 or by appointment.
Be advised that economics department closes at 4:00PM. Therefore, when you come for the office hours the department doors will be locked. Call my office extension and I will come to the main entrance (NOT any of the side entrances) to the department and open the door for you.

NOTE: The instructor reserves a right not to be disturbed under ANY circumstances during the one hour immediately preceding the lecture time – this applies especially to the days the tests are held.

Lecture Time and Location:

Lecture: Thursday: 7:00-10:00 PM
Location: DB 1016

Prerequisite / Co-requisite:

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 2300 3.00, AP/ECON 2350 3.00, AP/ECON 2400, and AP/ECON 2450 3.00, or equivalents. Course credit exclusion: GL/ECON 3570 3.00. PRIOR TO FALL 2009: Course credit exclusions: AK/ECON 3450 3.00, AS/ECON 4070 3.00, GL/ECON 3570 3.00.

Course Description:

Identifies the role of government in a modern economy and examines the interaction between government's attempts to provide services and the financing of expenditures through traditional and non-traditional means.

Weighting of Course:

Evaluation

Important dates and grading scheme are as follows:

Term Test 1	25%	October 22 nd , regular class hours	Location: regular classroom
Term Test 2	25%	November 19 th , regular class hours	Location: regular classroom
Final Exam	50%	Date: TBA	Location: TBA

The tests and the final will not be re-weighted in order to benefit any single student or any group of students.

Missed exams/Tests:

There will be no make-up for the term tests. If you are unable to take a term test **for a valid reason ONLY**, the weight of the test will be added to the final exam. Students missing a term test must provide detailed documentation in the manner required by York. The instructor must be contacted about missing the term test via e-mail at brzozows@yorku.ca or in person within 48 hours after the end of the test (*since it is student's responsibility to make sure that the instructor has been contacted e-mail works much better than any other means of communication*). Students missing the mid-term exam who do not provide such documentation will receive a grade of zero for the mid-term exam.

For both tests, students are responsible for **all** the material covered until the date of the test.

The final exam will be held during the university exam period. While it will be weighted towards the material covered after the second term test, it will cover **all** the material since the first lecture in September.

Grading

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments

and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

Course Text / Readings:

Required Text

A Course in Public Economics. by John Leach, 2003, Cambridge University Press,

Organization of the Course (Topics):

Topics and Readings¹

1. Introduction to Welfare Economics,
 - Pure Exchange and Production economy.
 - 1st and 2nd Fundamental Theorems of Welfare Economics
2. Criteria for Taxation Analysis.
3. Externalities and Negotiations
 - Social vs Private cost
 - Pigouvian Taxes as a regulatory mechanism
4. Income Redistribution
 - Rationale and criteria
 - Cash vs In-kind transfers
5. Taxation in Partial Equilibrium and General Equilibrium frameworks
 - Unit taxes
 - Ad Valorem Taxes
 - Commodity taxation without competition
6. Efficiency – equity tradeoff
 - Ramsey rule
 - Inverse elasticity rule
 - The theory of Second Best
7. Taxation under imperfect information
 - Tagging vs targeting
8. Monopoly and taxation
 - Taxes vs monopoly profits (financing the government)

¹ This list of topics is indicative only; changes may be made to the sequence; additional material may be added.

Important Dates

	Fall Term 2025 (F25)
Last date to add a course	September 22
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	November 10
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript)	Nov. 11 - Dec. 8

Important Academic Forms

- Religious Accommodation - http://registrar.yorku.ca/sites/registrar/files/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf
- Attending Physician's Statement Form - <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>
- Mach form for submitting an ECON deferred exam request: <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/econ/undergraduate-programs/academic-resources/departments-policies/deferred-standing/>

Important Information for Students

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage.

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures is located on the York University Senate webpage. As per Senate Policy, academic honesty and integrity is defined as conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one's program or specialization is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences, as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. More information on academic integrity for students can be found on the York Academic Integrity Website.
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants located using the Senate Policy Research Involving Human Participants link
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities can be accessed using the Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities link.
- Information on student conduct standards can be reviewed on the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities webpage.
- Students requiring religious accommodation should review the Religious Accommodations Guidelines using the Religious Observance link.