Description: Economic Policy Analysis

Subject | Cat-nbr | Class | Term | Mode | Units | Campus
ECO     | 3002    | 72026 | 6, 2007 | EXT  | 1.00  | Toowoomba

Academic group: FOBUS
Academic org: FOB008
Student contribution band: 2
ASCED code: 091901

STAFFING
Examiner: Khorshed Alam

REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: ECO1000

OTHER REQUISITES
Recommended Pre-requisite: ECO2001 and ECO2000. Students are required to have access to a personal computer, e-mail capabilities and Internet access to USQConnect. Current details of computer requirements can be found at http://www.usq.edu.au/business/aboutfob.htm

RATIONALE
Students seeking careers as professional economists in both private and public sectors need an understanding of the policy advisory process and an ability to apply their knowledge of economics in the preparation of economic policy advice. These practical requirements of the professional economist are met in an integrative course that combines economic theory, applied analysis and policy-advising reality.

SYNOPSIS
This course focuses on the role and work of the professional economist in the development and presentation of economic policy advice. Apart from emphasising applied economic analysis, the course addresses issues associated with policy ideology and value judgements, the nature of decision-making in the Australian and other economies, the nature, extent and use of economic power and potential conflict among policy objectives. Students are required to complete and present a small policy dissertation.
OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item/s that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective is/are shown in parentheses after each objective. On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. cognisant of theoretical public policy frameworks and capable of some critical analysis of those frameworks (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Examination)
2. aware of interest groups germane to the public policy process and the role played by these groups (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Examination)
3. informed about the essential tension between the methods and procedures of the economics discipline in particular, and the policy process in general, and be capable of bringing forward contributions and professional comment in a manner which facilitates the alleviation of that tension (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Examination)
4. in possession of skills which allow a practical participation in the process of economic policy formulation, implementation and evaluation (Assignment 1, Assignment 2, Examination)
5. knowledgeable about the policy process in private firms and the similarities, differences and contradictions between public policy and 'private' policy (Examination)
6. capable of suggesting future directions in policy, and alternative practices that might improve the effectiveness of the policy process (Assignment 2, Examination).

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Important concepts in economic policy</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Techniques of economic analysis and impact assessment</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Issues in economic policy: microeconomic policy and reform</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Issues in economic policy: macroeconomic policy and reform</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Public sector expenditures</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Public sector revenues</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).


REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.


STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>69.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>96.00</td>
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</table>

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 1</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>22 Oct 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 2</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>21 Dec 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 HOUR EXAMINATION</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>END S6 (see note 1)</td>
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</tbody>
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NOTES

1. The examination is scheduled to be held in the end-of-semester examination period. Students will be advised of the official examination date after the timetable has been finalised.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval of the examiner, then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero may be recorded.
4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total
   weighted marks available for the course.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted
   marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
   This is a restricted examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the
   examination for this course are (i) writing materials: non-electronic and free from material
   which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination; (ii) translation
dictionaries: with the Examiner's approval, candidates may, take an appropriate
non-electronic translation dictionary into the examination (this will be subject to perusal
and, if it is found to contain annotations or markings that could give the candidate an
unfair advantage, it may be removed from the candidate's possession until the appropriate
disciplinary action is completed); and (iii) calculator which cannot hold textual information
(students must indicate on their examination paper the make and model of any calculator(s)
they use during the examination).

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next
   examination period.

8 University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Student
   Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene
   university regulations. These regulations can be found at
   http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm. Students should also read
   the Faculty of Business Policies and Procedures which can be found at

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 Assignments: (i) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must
despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the
despach date, if requested by the examiner. (ii) Students must retain a copy of each
assignment submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24 hours if required
by the examiner. (iii) In accordance with university policy, the examiner may grant an
extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. (v) The examiner
will not accept submission of assignments by facsimile. (vi) Students who do not have
regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations
may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner to negotiate such
special arrangements. (vii) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local
public holiday in their area, such as a show holiday, the due date for the assignment will
be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday
for the examiner's convenience.

2 Course weightings: Course weightings of topics should not be interpreted as applying to
the number of marks allocated to questions testing those topics in an examination paper.
The examination may test material already tested in assignments.

3 Deferred work: Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons,
are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time
may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by
appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be
awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).