

Pols 641 Seminar in Public Administration

Politics of Public Budgeting

Professor Harvey J. Tucker
Allen Building 2084
Office Hrs. TR 1:00-2:00 and by appointment
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PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to selected topics in the public administration and political science literatures on the politics of public finance and budgeting. Normative and empirical theories concerning budgeting in federal, state, and local governments in the United States will be studied. The specific details and formats of budget procedures and documents vary considerably across governments. It is not possible to teach students all the details of budgeting for their next professional positions. However, budgeting shares a common vocabulary and common issues. Readings, lectures and discussions will introduce students to the practice of budgeting by learning the language of budgeting and studying the major topics and issues common to budgeting in all governments in the United States. Analyses of case studies and interactions with guest speakers will help students develop budgeting skills and familiarity with the real world challenges of budgeting.

TEXTS

John Mikesell. 1999. **Fiscal Administration**, 5th ed. Ft. Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

Irene Rubin. 2000. **The Politics of Public Budgeting: Getting and Spending, Borrowing and Balancing**, 4th ed. New York: Chatham House.

Case study materials will be distributed to students during the semester.

REQUIREMENTS

The class will be organized as a seminar, and assigned readings will be the subjects of discussion. Given the nature of the class, preparation, attendance, and participation by each student at each class meeting are essential.

Course grades will be determined as follows: midterm – 30%; final exam – 30%; short written assignments 30%, class participation – 10%. Class participation will be evaluated in terms of quality and quantity.

No incompletes will be given except in case of prolonged illness or emergency in the immediate family.

TENTATIVE CLASS CALENDAR AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

There may be changes to the dates and assignments below to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers.

September 3	Introduction Case: The Theater Budget
September 10	Public Finance 1 Mikesell, Ch 1, 6-7 Rubin, Ch 1-2 Case: Daycare Comes to Northville 1
September 17	Public Finance 2 Mikesell, Ch 8-10 Guest: Billy Hamilton
September 24	Public Finance 3 Mikesell, Ch 11-13 Case: Trash Collection in Lone Pine: To Privatize or Not? Guests: Brent Whitaker and Sarah Hicks
October 1- October 8	Politics and Budgeting, Traditional Processes Mikesell, Ch 1-3 Rubin, Ch 1, 3 Guest: Dan Parker (TBA) Case: Seven Letters (October 8)
October 15	MIDTERM EXAM
October 22-29	Change and Reform Mikesell, Ch 4 Rubin, Ch 4 Case: A Career Manager and the Budgetary Process Guest: John Opperman
November 5	Expenditures Rubin Ch 5 Guest: Brenda Aguilar
November 12	Capital Budgeting And Debt Administration Mikesell Ch. 5, 14-15 Guest: Greg Anderson

November 19	Execution and Balancing Budgets Rubin Ch 6-7 Guest: Pam Rambo
December 3-10	Implementation Rubin, Ch 8-9 Daycare Comes to Northville 2, 3
December 17	FINAL EXAM

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building, or call 845-1637.