

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HA4017 Economics Issues for Public Decision Making

Pre-requisites : HA1003

No. of AUs. : 4

Contact Hours : 52

Course Aims

This course introduces you to an in-depth examination of the forces that influence the behavior of public administrators engaged in the public sector decision-making process on economic issues. A fundamental purpose of the course is to train you to have the economic way of thinking and to show how that approach enables you to make more informed and better choices at an advanced level. Specifically, in this course, you will be exposed to concepts and tools that will allow you to: (1) apply economic knowledge to help solve current public sector challenges; (2) evaluate arguments advocating certain approaches to addressing policy issues; and (3) incorporate economic principles into how they approach decision in daily life.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the economic and political challenges of public governance.
2. Apply a public service perspective to analyze major themes of the course.
3. Demonstrate skills to research, analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make public decisions.
4. Discuss the significance of responsibilities that come with public decision making.

Course Content

This course is mainly organized along the following themes: (1) Introduction of economic issues of governance, (2) How to write research proposal and academic papers, (3) Market dynamics: Supply and demand theory, (4) Policy applications, (5) Market failure (monopoly, information asymmetry, public goods, and externalities), (6) Government intervention (redistribution and macroeconomic stabilization), (7) Government failure (focusing on the budget-maximizing bureaucrat), (8) Privatization, deregulation and contracting-out, (9) The new economics of organization and political control of bureaucracies, (10) Tiebout model and local public market, (11) Cost-benefit analysis, and (12) Financial crisis and public administration.

Course Assessment

Final Research paper : 40%

CA1 - Class Participation : 10%

CA2 - Case Analysis : 30%
(Student-led weekly presentation)

CA3 - Two Policy Issue Memos : 20%

Total -----

100%