

Queen's University  
Department of Economics

Economics 440: Public Economics  
Fall 2011

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**Textbook**

Hindriks J. and G. Myles (2006) *Intermediate Public Economics*. MIT Press

**Course Overview**

This is an introductory course on Public Economics. The material will focus on normative and positive theories of government involvement in the economy. Topics will include: Market failure as a rationale for government intervention, political economy, welfare economics and taxation theory.

**Evaluation**

Problem Sets (2)	20%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	50%

**Course Outline (Subject to revision)**

1 Introduction

1.1 Public Economics - H&M Chapter 1

2 Equilibrium and Efficiency - H&M Chapter 2

3 Departure from Efficiency

3.1 Public Goods - H&M Chapter 5

3.2 Club Goods and Local Public Goods - H&M Chapter 6

3.3 Externalities/Pollution - H&M Chapter 7

4 Political Economy

4.1 Voting - H&M Chapter 10

4.2 Rent Seeking - H&M Chapter 11

5 Social Welfare, Optimality and Comparability - H&M Chapter 12

6 Taxation

- Commodity Taxation - H&M Chapter 14
- Income Taxation -H&M Chapter 15
- Sin Taxes

7 Inequality and Poverty - H&M Chapter 13

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see [www.academicintegrity.org](http://www.academicintegrity.org)). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the “freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas” essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities)

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar, on the Arts and Science website and from the instructor of this course.

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen’s. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.