## Economics 5300 and 6300
### Fall 2017 Course Outline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assigned Reading¹</th>
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**Theory and practice, Utah economy and role of government, current issues**

**August**

24  Introductions and course overview (Gochnour)  
    Discussion about theory and practice (Gochnour)  
    Discussion: Differences in views on how the economy behaves (Parker)

31  Utah economic overview (Gochnour)  
    What makes an economy grow? (Gochnour)  
    Discussion: Current issues in public finance (Parker)

**September**

**Welfare economics**

7  Market efficiency and failure (Gochnour)  
    Class discussion: Case study — Infrastructure spending (Parker)

14  What is a policy brief? (Parker)—Focus on State Funding for Public Transportation  
    QUIZ #1 (Parker) (Chapters 1-4)  
    Various readings

21  Public goods and externalities (Gochnour)  
    Efficiency and equity (Gochnour)  
    Guest Speaker: Andrew Gruber, Wasatch Front Regional Council (INVITED)

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¹ Complete reading before class meets on the day listed.
28 NO CLASS / SELF-DIRECTED STUDY

*Finish policy brief

Public Expenditures and Tax Policy

October

5 Public expenditure and choice (Gochnour) Stiglitz, Chpts. 8-10, 14
Class discussion: Case study – Education policy (Parker)
*Policy brief assignment due at beginning of class

12 Fall break/no class

19 Cost-benefit analysis (Gochnour) Stiglitz, Chpt. 11
Tax theory (Gochnour) Stiglitz, Chpts. 17-18
Others as assigned

QUIZ #2 (Parker) Chapters 5-7, 8-10, 15

26 Design of tax system (Parker) Stiglitz, Chpt. 25
Cost-benefit applied example and discussion (Parker) Others as assigned

November

2 Guest Speaker: Rich McKeown, Leavitt Partners Stiglitz, Chpt. 13

9 Guest Speaker: Rep. Dan McCay

Class discussion: What makes a great policy memo? (Parker) – Tax Reform

QUIZ #3 (Parker) (Chapter 11,13,14)

*Distribute graduate student reading and writing assignment

*Distribute policy memo assignment

16 Utah’s tax system (Gochnour) Stiglitz, Chpts. 19, 22 & 27
Others as assigned

Class discussion: Case study – Tax modernization (Parker)

23 Thanksgiving break/no class
QUIZ #4 (Parker) Chapters 17, 18, 25)

30 Fiscal deficits and government debt (Gochnour) Stiglitz, Chpt. 28
Course summary (Gochnour and Parker)
*Policy memo due at beginning of class

December

7 FINAL QUIZ (Parker)
*Graduate student essay due