Readings

The attached reading list has one book, eleven (short) chapters of lecture notes and a few journal articles. All of these readings are required only for the purposes of preparing and reviewing my lectures (i.e., the exams do not visit topics absent from the lectures that might be found somewhere in one of the journal articles). The readings and problem sets are available as Adobe Acrobat or Powerpoint files on my www page. The book should be available for purchase on-line and at the University of Chicago bookstore sometime in week 2.

Summary of Course Requirements

• Register for the class email list from my www page by Tuesday 10/16.
• Periodically look at my WWW page. Problem Sets, class announcements, and handouts will be posted there. Some readings can also be viewed from the page.
• Complete all 4 problems sets.
• Take the midterm on November 7, 2012.
• Take the final exam, which is the afternoon of Monday 12/10/12. The exam cannot be rescheduled unless the students unanimously agree. Only graduating seniors, if any, may take a “graduating senior final.”

Problem sets are 30% of the grade. The midterm and final together account for the other 70% (midterm counts once, final counts twice – take the highest two of those three grades and count 35% each – ie, the lowest of those three grades is dropped). The above are requirements, although you may notice from the grading formula that a zero on the midterm (say, due to absence) is not devastating … the final just counts more. Please plan accordingly because there will be no exceptions or extensions.

Exams are “Open Book”

This means that the typed lecture notes may be used during the exam, but no other written or electronic material.
Public Sector Economics

Book


Lecture Notes


The lecture notes and journal articles will be supplemented with powerpoint presentations (also posted on my www page), and current event reports posted to my twitter account.

Journal Articles by Subject

1) Comparative Public Finance

Lecture notes, Chapter 2.
*The Redistribution Recession*, Chapter 3.

2) Taxes and Behavior

Autor, David H. “The Unsustainable Rise of the Disability Rolls in the United States: Causes,
3) Tax Incidence

Lecture notes, Chapter 4.

4) Optimal Taxes and Spending

Lecture Notes, Chapters 5-6.
The Redistribution Recession, Chapter 10.

5) Explaining Government Behavior – Various Theoretical Approaches

Lecture Notes, Chapter 7.

6) Explaining Government Behavior – Empirical Applications

Lecture Notes, Chapter 8.