Instructor:  
Professor Cynthia Rogers  
E-mail: crogers@ou.edu

Office Location and Hours:  
423 Cate Center Drive 1  
Mon & Wed. 10:45 – 11:45 am & by appointment.

Class Format:  
We will discuss numerous contemporary policy questions at the national, state, regional and local level. We will build persuasive arguments using sound economic reasoning to learn how to inform policy debates in a meaningful fashion.

Prerequisite:  
A grade of C or better in ECON 2843, 3113 and 3133

Learning Objective:  
By the end of this class you will be better equipped to write, present, and discuss economic issues using sources available to the public and economists.

Attendance, Grading, and Class Protocol:  
This class will be in a discussion format with a heavy emphasis placed on class participation, reading, and persuasive writing. Accordingly, it is imperative that you attend class and thoroughly analyze the required reading.

Grades will be determined as follows:

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Reading synopsis</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Community/policy engagement</td>
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<td>Peer Project evaluation</td>
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<td>Poster presentation</td>
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<td>Student Project</td>
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Attendance:  
Attendance is required. Every third missed class will result in the deduction of 1 percentage point of your grade.

Class Participation:  
The size of this class is optimal for classroom discussion. Students are expected to participate in the daily discussion of assigned topics. I will call on students who have not participated first. If you are reluctant to join the conversation orally, please see me about other ways you can contribute to the discussion. Each student will keep a record of participation (a daily log with comments/questions/contributions) to compare with the one I keep. Students will get a score of 0 (present but no comment), 1 (one or two contributions), or 3 (multiple contributions) each day of class discussion. Your average daily participation (averaged over the entire semester) will determine your grade; 3=A, 2=B, 1=C, <1 = D.
**Reading synopsis:**
On the days that there is an assigned reading you are required to turn in a 300-word synopsis of the topic, including (1) the main point of the reading; (2) the economic principles/theories applied; (3) one or two criticisms of the article; and (4) further questions related to the article and/or links to additional readings/articles. It must be in Canvas by 1 pm on the day the reading will be discussed. BE SURE TO USE YOUR OWN Words and indicate quotes as needed. These will be reviewed.

**Quizzes:**
There will be two required quizzes on the topics discussed in class, including reviews of basic principles of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. These will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. An optional/make up quiz will be given during the final exam period for students who miss a quiz or desire to improve a quiz grade.

**Community/Policy Engagement:**
Students must attend a civic meeting which discusses some kind of policy. Examples include City Council meeting, special city committee meeting (finance, tax increment finance district, bike commission, tree board, Planning commission), Regional Health Board, School Board, Norman Next, Sierra Club, etc. Students will write a synopsis of the meeting including, date, organization, purpose, topics discussed, and economic concepts related to the discussed topic, and at least 2 related articles/research papers. This will be posted on Canvas. The minimum length is 300 words.

**Peer Evaluation:**
Students will provide feedback to peers on their projects. This will be done during class period and during poster presentations.

**Presentations:**
During the last 2 or 3 weeks of class, each student/group will complete a poster presentation of the results of their semester-long research project. The presentations will last 10-15 minutes with 5 to 10 minutes for questions. If students work in pairs, then each member of the group must present and be able to answer questions asked.

**Student Project:**
Each student will complete an original analysis of a policy issue. Detailed instructions will be provided. It should be 15 -18 pages with standard (1 inch) margins, Times Roman 12 point text (or similar), and must be double spaced. The bibliography and cover page do not count in the 15 page minimum, but original graphs and tables do.

1. Title Page: Title and with names of authors
2. Introduction: What is the topic? Why is it important? How will it be analyzed in the paper? (1-2 pages, 10 points)
3. Background and literature review: Provide background on the topic. This might include current policy discussion, economic research related to the topic, discussion of current and proposed policies. (2-4 pages, 20 points)
4. Original Analysis: Collect data, create charts, graphs or do basic empirical analysis related to the topic. Present a theoretical model if relevant. Explain the basic economic concepts? (6-8 pages; 40 points)
5. Original conclusion and recommendations (1-2 pages; 20 points)
6. Bibliography with complete information about sources used. (10 points)
NOTE: The use of internet sources must be limited unless they are online versions of hard copy periodicals, such as the Wall Street Journal Online, New York Times Online, etc. Wikipedia and similar sites are not valid research references.

Required Texts:
The Economics of Macro Issues 8th edition by R. Miller & D. Benjamin
The Economics of Public Issues 20th edition by R. Miller, D. Benjamin, and D. North
Annual Editions: Economics 38th edition by S. Ghosh

Americans With Disabilities Act:
If you require an accommodation based on an issue that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, please contact me personally in my office during the first week of the semester. Students are responsible for informing instructors of accommodations and for registering with the Disability Resource Center www.ou.edu/drc.html. Exams must be taken at the scheduled times UNLESS prior approval is obtained from Dr. Rogers.

Drop Dates:
The last day to drop the course without petitioning the College Dean is November 9, 2018. If you are planning to drop, it would be best to do it early so that you can have plenty of time to find a suitable class replacement.

Academic Misconduct Policy:
The academic misconduct policy is stated in the University of Oklahoma honor code. Misconduct includes:

1. Misrepresentation: falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, and transcripts
2. Cheating: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information
3. Fabrication: presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material
4. Plagiarism: representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one’s own

Violations of the integrity code will be taken seriously and can lead to your removal from the university and will definitely result in failing this course. If you sign the class roll for someone else, or have someone sign the class roll for you, this is considered academic fraud.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to change- Student requests are welcome!):

Monday August 20: Introduction/Assignments – Identify 5 key economic concepts!
Wed August 22: Career Services/Library resources – Bring RESUME to class!
Monday August 27: Why Colorado and Washington were wise to legalize pot (AE 2.4)
Wednesday August 29: Poverty, capitalism, and growth (macro - 4)

Monday Sept. 3 – Labor Day Holiday!
Wednesday Sept. 5: 13 State Raising Pay for Minimum-Wage Workers (AE 3.9)
Monday Sept. 10: Shortchanged (AE 3.3)
Wednesday Sept. 12: The case of the missing workers (macro - 12)
Possible Topics:

- Setting up a Storm Water Utility in Norman (https://www.normanstormwater.com)
- City of Norman Strategic Economic Development plan (https://www.normanedplan.com/)
- Recycling for City of Norman’s downtown (Main Street) business district
- Incentives Evaluation Commission – incentives under review (www.iec.ok.gov)
- What is driving Soonercare enrollment growth? Is it incarceration rates?
- Tax Increment Financing Schemes and redistribution from poor to wealth school districts in Oklahoma