

- ii. Rawls, J. (1971/1999) *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge: Belknap, Harvard University Press.
- iii. Bergson, A. (1938) "A Reformulation of Certain Aspects of Welfare Economics," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 52: 310-34.
- iv. Harsanyi, J. C. (1955) "Cardinal Utility in Welfare Economics and in The Theory of Risk Taking," *Journal of Political Economy* 61: 434-35.
- v. Buchanan, J. M. (1959) "Positive Economics, Welfare Economics, and Political Economy," *Journal of Law and Economics* 2: 124-38.

1/26 A Review of Simple Tools and Models of the Burden of Taxation

The Net Benefit maximizing model of rational choice, supply and demand, excise taxation, tax shifting, progressivity.

Applications: gasoline excise taxes, cadillac health plans, tariffs

- i. Browning, E. K. (1987) "On the Marginal Welfare Cost of Taxation," *American Economic Review* 77: 77:11-23.
- ii. Zodrow, G. R. (2001) "The Property Tax as a Capital Tax: A Room with Three Views," *National Tax Journal* 54.
- iii. Keen, M. and C. Kotsogiannis (2003) "Leviathan and Capital Tax Competition in Federations," *Journal of Public Economic Theory* 5: 177-99.
- iv. Parry, I. W. H. and K. A. Small (2005) "Does Britain or the United States Have the Right Gasoline Tax?" *American Economic Review* 95: 1276-89.
- v. Conesa, J. C. and D. Krueger (2006) "On the Optimal Progressivity of the Income Tax Code," *Journal of Monetary Economics* 53: 1425-1450.

2/02 Public Goods, Externalities, and the Utilitarian Theory of Government.

Public and Private Goods, the free rider problem; Pareto optimal supply of public goods, Samuelsonian, and Lindahl Taxes; Externalities and Market Failures, Pigovian taxes, political failures.

Applications: national defense, clean air and water, highways, welfare, carbon taxes.

- i. Samuelson, P. A. (1954) "The Pure Theory of Public Expenditure." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 36: 387-9.
- ii. Buchanan, J. M. and W. C. Stubblebine (1962) "Externality," *Economica* 29: 371-384.
- iii. Goulder, L. H. (1995) "Environmental Taxation and the Double Dividend: A Reader's Guide," *International Tax and Public Finance* 2: 157-183.
- iv. Cornes, R. and T. Sandler (1996) *The Theory of Externalities, Public Goods, and Club Goods*. New York: Cambridge.

2/09 The Positive Theory of Government Services and Taxes: Public Choice

The median voter model: saving money through public provision. Economic interest groups, rent-seeking, fiscal illusion, and the jury theorem.

- i. Buchanan, J.M. (1949) "The Pure Theory of Government Finance: A Suggested Approach," *Journal of Political Economy* 57: 496-505.
- ii. Petlzman, S. (1976) "Toward a More General Theory of Regulation," *Journal of Law and Economics* 19: 211-240.

- iii. Congleton, R. D. And R. Bennett (1995) "On the Political Economy of State Highway Expenditures: Some Evidence of the Relative Performance of Alternative Public Choice Models," *Public Choice* 84: 1-24.
- iv. Congleton, R. D. (2007) "Informational Limits to Democratic Public Policy: the Jury Theorem, Yardstick Competition, and Ignorance," *Public Choice* 132: 333-352.
- v. Persson, T., G. Roland, G. Tabellini (1997) "Comparative Politics and Public Finance," *Journal of Political Economy* 108: 1121-1161.

2/16 **Paying for Government: Normative Theories of Taxation**

Theories of Optimal Taxation: Ramsay and Henry Georgian taxation (minimizing dead weight loss), Utilitarian: progressive and regressive taxation, neutral taxation, Contractarian theories of taxation (Buchanan and Rawls), Benefit Taxation (Lindahl), generality norms.

Applications: flat taxes, consumption taxes, proportional taxes, VAT, elimination of loop holes.

- i. Lindahl, E. (1958) *Just Taxation—A Positive Solution* included in Musgrave R. and A. Peacock (eds.) *Classics in the Theory of Public Finance*. New York: Macmillan.
- ii. Diamond, P. A. and J. A. Mirrlees (1971) "Optimal Taxation and Public Production II: Tax Rules," *American Economic Review* 61: 261-278.
- iii. Jones; L. E., R. E. Manuelli; P. E. Rossi (1993) "Optimal Taxation in Models of Endogenous Growth," *Journal of Political Economy* 101: 485-517.
- iv. G. Brennan and J. M. Buchanan (1977) "Towards a Tax Constitution for Leviathan," *Journal of Public Economics* 8: 255-273.
- v. Sobel, R. S. (1997) "Optimal Taxation in a Federal System of Government." *Southern Economic Journal* 64:468-485.

2/23 **Principles Debt of Debt Finance**

Ricardian neutrality, limits to inter-generational shifting of taxes, political biases favoring debt over taxes, Keynesian macroeconomics, crowding out, balanced budget amendments, redistribution

Applications: history of federal and state borrowing

- i. Roubini, N., J. Sachs, S. Honkapohja, D. Cohen (1989) "Government Spending and Budget Deficits in the Industrial Countries," *Economic Policy* 4: 99-132.
- ii. Hochman, H. M. and J. D. Rodgers (1969) "Pareto Optimal Redistribution," *American Economic Review* 59: 542-557.
- iii. Cooter, R. And E. Helpman (1974) "Optimal Income Taxation For Transfer Payments Under Different Social Welfare Criteria," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 88: 656-670.
- iv. Feldstein, M and D. W. Elmendorf (1993) "Government Debt, Government Spending, and Private Sector Behavior Revisited: Comment," *American Economic Review* 80: 589-599.

v. Buchanan, J. M. and R. E. Wagner (1977) *Democracy in Deficit: The Political Legacy of Lord Keynes*. New York: Academic Press

3/2

Fiscal Federalism: Fiscal Relationships Among Governments

Intranational fiscal competition (the Tiebout Model and its limits). Decentralization Theorem(s). The allocation of services within a Federal polity. Regional externalities, public bads and NIMBY. International fiscal competition.

Applications: competitive governance, race to the bottom, menu federalism, fiscal externalities.

- i. Buchanan, J. M. (1950) *Federalism and Fiscal Equity*. *American Economic Review* 40: 583-599.
- ii. Tiebout, C. M. (1956) "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures," *Journal of Political Economy* 64: 416-424.
- iii. Oates, W. E. (2005) "Toward a Second Generation of Fiscal Federalism," *International Tax and Public Finance* 12: 349-73.
- iv. Congleton, R. D., and A. Kyriacou and J. Bacaria (2003) "A Theory of Menu *Constitutional Political Economy* 14:167- 190.
- v. Oates, W. E. (1972) *Fiscal Federalism*. New York: Harcourt, Brace Javonovich.

3/09

Spring Break

3/16

Institutions and the Effective Demand for Government Services

Aggregating Preferences and Intra-Governmental Bargaining. The effects of electoral systems, bicameralism, presidential and prime ministerial institutions on government expenditures, taxation and debt.

- i. Poterba, J. M. (1994) "State Responses to Fiscal Crises: The Effects of Budgetary Institutions and Politics," *Journal of Political Economy* 102: 799-821.
- ii. Hansen, J. M. (1998) "Individuals, Institutions, and Public Preferences over Public Finance," *American Political Science Review* 92: 513-531.
- iii. Kirchgässner, G. (2001) "The Effects of Fiscal Institutions on Public Finance: A Survey of the Empirical Evidence," *CESifo Working Paper Series* No. 617.
- iv. Pommerehne, W. W. And F. Schneider (1978) "Fiscal Illusion, Political Institutions, and Local Government Spending," *Kyklos* 31: 381-408.
- v. Congleton, R. D. (2001) "The Politics of Government Growth," in Shughart, W. F. and Razzolini L. *Elgar Companion to Public Choice*, Edward Elgar Publishers, Ltd. , 457-478.

3/23

The Public Demand for Social Insurance

The demand for insurance, why governments can sometimes provide insurance more efficiently than private clubs and private firms, rapid growth of public insurance programs, difference between insurance and transfers, are "bailouts" social insurance? Adverse selection and moral hazard problems.

- i. Congleton, R. D. (2007) "On the Feasibility of a Liberal Welfare State: Agency and Exit Costs in Income Security Clubs," *Constitutional Political Economy* 18: 145-159.

- ii. Hubbard, R. G., J. Skinner and S. P. Zeldes (1995) "Precautionary Saving and Social Insurance," *Journal of Political Economy*, 103: 360-99.
- iii. Sefton, J., J. van de Ven, M. Weale. (2008) "Means Testing Retirement Benefits: fostering equity or discouraging savings?" *The Economic Journal* 118: 556-590.
- iv. Franks, P., C. M. Clancy, and M. R. Gold (1993) "Health Insurance and Mortality. Evidence from a National Cohort." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 270:737-741.
- v. Feldstein, M. S. (1973) "The Welfare Loss of Excess Health Insurance." *Journal of Political Economy* 81: 251-280.

3/30 Applications: the Demand and Supply of Public Pensions

The median voter model and the demand for social insurance. Electoral and interest group politics: the private demand for redistribution; the demand for transfers and the cost of rent seeking.

- i. Browning, E. K. (1975) "Why the Social Insurance Budget Is Too Large in a Democracy," *Economic Inquiry*.
- ii. Congleton, R. D. and W. F. Shughart (1990) "The Growth of Social Security: Electoral Push or Political Pull," *Economic Inquiry*.
- iii. Tabellini, G. (2000) "A Positive Theory of Social Security," *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*.
- iv. Agell, J. (2002) "On the Determinants of Labor Market Institutions: Rent Seeking versus Social Insurance," *German Economic Review*.
- v. Feldstein, M. S. (2005) "Rethinking Social Insurance," *NBER working paper*.

4/6 Midterm Exam (take home)

4/13 Applications: The Financial Crisis and Bailouts of 2008-09

Macroeconomic policy and bank regulation policy as social insurance.

4/20 Applications: The Budget and Budgetary Reforms (some stories from CBO, or Tax Reform)

- i. Lindbeck, A. and J. W. Weibull (1987) "Balanced Budget Redistribution as the Outcome of Political Competition," *Public Choice* 52: 273-297.
- ii. Bohn, H. and R. P. Inman (1996) "Balanced Budget Rules and Public Deficits: Evidence from the US States," *Carnegie-Rochester Conference Series on Public Policy*.
- iii. Buchanan, J. M. (1997) "The Balanced Budget Amendment: Clarifying Arguments," *Public Choice* 90: 117-138.
- iv. Buchanan, J. M., and R. E. Wagner (1977) *Democracy in Deficit: the Political Legacy of Lord Keynes*. New York: Academic Press.

4/27 International Organizations as Public Goods Providing Clubs

- i. Barnett, M. N. and M. Finnemore (1999) "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations," *International Organization*.

- ii. Vaubel, R. and T. D. Willett (1991) *The Political Economy of International Organizations, A Public Choice Approach*. Westview Press.
- iii. Fratianni, M. and J. Pattison (2007) "The Economics of International Organizations," *Kyklos*.
- iv. Congleton, R. D. (2006) "International Public Goods and Agency Problems in Treaty Organizations," *Review of International Organizations*.

5/1 Workshop for Papers (Carow Hall)**

5/4 Overview of Class

5/12 14-20 Page paper due on an applied public finance topic**

** date may be changed

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.