



BUSINESS SCHOOL
Te Kura Pakihi

COURSE OUTLINE

ECON308

Public Economics

Semester One 2024

Key information

ECON308 is an 18 point paper. The prerequisites are ECON201 or ECON271.

Description and Learning Outcomes

Regulation and antitrust are key elements of government policy. Regulatory and antitrust policies affect virtually all aspects of our lives, ranging from the quality of the air we breathe to the prices we pay for a vast variety of commodities and these policies have undergone substantial change in recent decades. This paper conveys the latest economic principles that should guide regulatory and antitrust policies in various areas.

The objective is to enable students to understand basic models of the regulation of natural monopolies; collusion through the lens of game theory; basic principles in the area of health, safety and environmental regulation; and how behavioural insights should be incorporated in regulatory analyses. We will focus on real-world issues: you will engage with the kind of economic analysis of regulation that you might be required to provide if you were working for a government agency, such as the NZCC, or an economic consultancy.

Teaching Staff

Name: Daniel Neururer (1st part of the course; course Coordinator)

Email: daniel.neururer@otago.ac.nz

Office: Room 6.16, Otago Business School

Office hours: I have an open-door policy. Feel free to drop in (or write an email) at any time.

Name: Peter Gibbard (2nd part of the course)

Email: peter.gibbard@otago.ac.nz

Office: Room 5.25, Otago Business School

Office hours: My office hours will be announced in the first lecture. If you are unable to meet me then, feel free to ask questions via email, or to arrange an alternative time to meet.

Lectures

Three hours per week: See eVision for the timeline.

Tutorials

Only every fortnight. See eVision for the tentative timeline but be aware that not all scheduled tutorials on eVision take place. We will inform you via mail and Blackboard about the final tutorial dates.

Learning resources

The central source will be the following textbook

V. W. Kip, J. Harrington and D. Sappington (2018). *Economics of Regulation and Antitrust*, 5th Edition. MIT Press.

from which about 70% will be covered.

Blackboard

Blackboard <https://blackboard.otago.ac.nz/> provides you with access to course materials, class notices, and resources. Blackboard is used to email the whole class so it is important that you check your student email and *Blackboard* regularly.

Assessment

You are encouraged to discuss hand-in exercises with other students in small groups and to hand in solutions as a group, in which case all individuals in a group receive the same grade. Precise deadlines for handing in, and the precise details on the scoring system, will be communicated in class or via Blackboard.

Your final score will be based for 30% on the hand-in exercises and for 70% on the final exam.

Workload

You should plan to devote 12 hours per week to this course. This is based on the University's 'rule of thumb' for an 18 point Semester course. Three of these hours are spent in lectures each week—leaving nine hours per week for your own reading and study and revision

Class Representatives

Volunteers for the role of class representatives will be called for early in the semester. Your name and contact details can be given to your lecturer and he will forward the details to the OUSA. The OUSA provides support to class representatives during the semester. Departmental staff will also meet with class representatives during the semester to discuss general issues or matters they wish to have considered.

Your class representative's name and contact details will be posted on Blackboard early in the semester.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, submitting work written by someone else (including from a file sharing website, text generation software, or purchased work) taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity, or ask at the Student Learning Centre (HEDC) or the Library, or seek advice from your paper co-ordinator.

For further information:

Academic Integrity Policy

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

Student Academic Misconduct Procedures

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

Kaiāwhina Māori | Māori Student Support - Ben Sommerville

Ben is the Kaiāwhina Māori (Māori student support) for Te Kura Pākihi | Otago Business School. He is able to answer any questions you may have about studying here at the University of Otago. He can provide information about scholarships, campus services, pastoral and financial care. Ben is also here to support those students who are studying away from their whānau, hapū and iwi, to ensure they feel safe and supported. He has a passion for the development of Rangatahi and understands the struggles that can come with academic life.

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Pacific Island Support

Faleviena Faiva

Malo e lelei

Falaviena works part-time in the Dean's Office at the Otago Business School, Division of Commerce. She is of Tongan descent and is one of the Pacific Student Support Facilitator's responsible for all **first-year** Pacific students in the division.

Falaviena is a University of Otago, Humanities and Commerce graduate and is currently completing a Postgraduate Commerce degree in International Business.

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Jekope Ramala Maiono

Bula Vinaka

Maiono also works part time in the Dean's Office at the Otago Business School, Division of Commerce. He is of Fijian descent and is the other Pacific Student Support Facilitator responsible for all **second-year** Pacific students in the division.

Maiono is a University of Otago Commerce graduate, also studying a PHD degree in the Division of Humanities.

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