

Economics of Public Policy Analysis

AEDE4003 Spring 2024

Course Information

- **Course times and location:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:35 a.m.-10:55 a.m.
- **Credit hours:** 3
- **Mode of delivery:** In Person

Instructor

- **Name:** Dr. Chen-Ti Chen
- **Email:** chen.13041@osu.edu
- **Office Phone:** 614-292-3776
- **Office location:** 128 Ag Admin Building
- **Office hours:** Thursdays 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. or by appointment (Zoom or in person)
- **Preferred means of communication:**
 - Email or direct message in Carmen.
 - My class-wide communications will be sent through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check your [notification preferences](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) (go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) to be sure you receive these messages.

Course Prerequisites/Co-Requisites

2001 or 2001H or Econ 2001 or 2001H; and AEDEcon 3000. Prereq or concur: 4001 or Econ 4001.02.

Course Description

Understanding of economic tools and concepts for analyzing public policies important to the food industry, agriculture and natural resources.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Learn the foundations of economic theory giving support to public policy analysis and be able to evaluate when and where policy interventions are warranted.
- Develop the skills to apply economic tools to examine market failures and analyze the welfare effects of a policy on efficiency and distribution.



Course Materials, Fees and Technologies

Recommended/Optional Materials and/or Technologies

- **Textbook:** *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, Hal R. Varian, (Eighth Edition), ISBN-13: 978-0393934243 (9th edition or international student version is also fine)

Required Equipment

- **Computer:** current Mac (MacOS) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection.
- **Other:** a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

If you do not have access to the technology you need to succeed in this class, review options for [technology and internet access](https://go.osu.edu/student-tech-access) (go.osu.edu/student-tech-access).

Required Software

Microsoft Office 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Visit the [installing Office 365](https://go.osu.edu/office365help) (go.osu.edu/office365help) help article for full instructions.

CarmenCanvas Access

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](https://buckeyepass.osu.edu) (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you do each of the following:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a Device](https://go.osu.edu/add-device) (go.osu.edu/add-device) help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes, good for 365 days, that can each be used once.
- [Install the Duo Mobile application](https://go.osu.edu/install-duo) (go.osu.edu/install-duo) on all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

Technology Skills Needed for This Course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills



- [Navigating CarmenCanvas](https://go.osu.edu/canvasstudent) (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- [CarmenZoom virtual meetings](https://go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings) (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)

Technology Support

For help with your password, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issues, questions or requests, contact the IT Service Desk, which offers 24-hour support, seven days a week.

- **Self Service and Chat:** go.osu.edu/it
- **Phone:** [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu

How This Course Works

Mode of delivery: This course is taught in person. Students are expected to attend class each week during the scheduled meeting sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:35-10:55 a.m. Exams will be administered in person during the scheduled class meetings as found on the course schedule. Quizzes and problem sets are completed via Carman. See [Descriptions of Major Course Assignments](#).

Pace of online activities: This course is divided into **weekly modules**. Students are expected to meet deadlines but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a 3 credit-hour course. According to [Ohio State bylaws on instruction](#) (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of C average.

Attendance and participation requirements: Research shows regular participation is one of the highest predictors of success. With that in mind, you are expected to attend lectures as often as you are able. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*. In the case of emergency or illness, contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations at the discretion of the instructor and with appropriate documentation.

Grading and Faculty Response

How Your Grade is Calculated

| Assignment Category | Points |
|---------------------|---|
| Problem Sets × 6 | 30% (5% each) |
| Midterm Exams × 2 | 25% (lower grade one will be dropped) |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Weekly Quizzes × 11 | 20% (2% each; lowest grade one will be dropped) |

See [Course Schedule](#) for due dates.

Descriptions of Major Course Assignments

Problem Sets

Description: There will be 6 problem sets. Each of the first 5 problem sets is designed to cover two weeks of lectures. Problem set 6 will be cumulative for the purpose of review. Each assignment will be available on Carman over about a two- (or three-) week window, with the specific schedule as follows:

- PS 1** [Available on Carman January 9 (12:01 am) to January 22 (11.59 pm)]
- PS 2** [Available on Carman January 23 (12:01 am) to February 5 (11.59 pm)]
- PS 3** [Available on Carman February 13 (12:01 am) to February 26 (11.59 pm)]
- PS 4** [Available on Carman February 27 (12.01 am) to March 18 (11.59 pm)]
- PS 5** [Available on Carman March 26 (12.01 am) to April 8 (11.59 pm)]
- PS 6** [Available on Carman April 9 (12.01 am) to April 22 (11.59 pm)]

Students are allowed to work together on the problem sets, but everyone must turn in their own work completed without the help of Large Language Models (e.g., Chap-GPT).

Exams

Description: There will be 2 midterm exams and one final exam. All exams are open-note and conducted in person, featuring multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer formats. Only the final exam is cumulative. The midterm exam with a lower grade will be dropped and will not count towards your final grade. The final exam will be administered during the designated date



and time. Students who foresee scheduling issues with exams should contact me as soon as possible to discuss alternative scheduling.

Weekly Quizzes

Description: There will be a weekly quiz posted on Carman every Friday except weeks 5, 10, 11, and 15 (see [Course Schedule](#)). Each quiz is conducted online via Carman with a time limit on the quiz once started. There will not be due dates for these quizzes, but you are expected to complete them as soon as they are posted to keep up with the lecture. The quizzes feature multiple-choice and true/false questions that will help prepare you for the types of questions that may appear on midterm and final exams. Quizzes must be completed without the help of others, including Large Language Models (e.g., Chap-GPT). One quiz with the lowest grade will be dropped and will not count towards your final grade.

Late Assignments

Please refer to [Course Schedule](#) (also available on Carmen) for due dates. Due dates are set to help you stay on pace and to allow timely feedback that will help you complete subsequent assignments. In the case of documented emergency or illness, or in the case of an excused absence that has been discussed with the instructor in advance, assignment due-dates may be adjusted at the discretion of the instructor.

Instructor Feedback and Response Time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. Remember that you can call [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) at any time if you have a technical problem.

- **Preferred contact method:** If you have a question, please contact me first through my Ohio State email address or direct message in Carman. I will reply to emails/Carman messages within **24 hours on days when class is in session at the university**.
- **Class announcements:** I will send all important class-wide messages through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check [your notification preferences](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) (go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) to ensure you receive these messages.
- **Grading and feedback:** For assignments submitted before the due date, I will try to provide feedback and grades within **seven days**. Assignments submitted after the due date may have reduced feedback and grades may take longer to be posted. Grades can be discussed during office hours, but not via emails or direct messages on Carman.

Grading Scale

93–100: A

90–92.9: A-

87–89.9: B+

83–86.9: B

80–82.9: B-

77–79.9: C+

73–76.9: C

70–72.9: C-

67–69.9: D+

60–66.9: D

Below 60: E



Other Course Policies

Discussion and Communication Guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.

Academic Integrity Policy

See [Descriptions of Major Course Assignments](#) for specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

Ohio State's Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct.

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student



Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- [Committee on Academic Misconduct](http://go.osu.edu/coam) (go.osu.edu/coam)
- [Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions) (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions)
- [Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules) (go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules)

Copyright for Instructional Materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

1. Online reporting form at equity.osu.edu,
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or Email equity@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university

employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

Diversity

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity of people and ideas. We believe in creating equitable research opportunities for all students and to providing programs and curricula that allow our students to understand critical societal challenges from diverse perspectives and aspire to use research to promote sustainable solutions for all. We are committed to maintaining an inclusive community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among all members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach their own potential. The Ohio State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment.

To learn more about diversity, equity, and inclusion and for opportunities to get involved, please visit:

- <https://odi.osu.edu/>
- <https://odi.osu.edu/racial-justice-resources>
- <https://odi.osu.edu/focus-on-racial-justice>
- <https://cbesc.osu.edu/>

In addition, this course adheres to **The Principles of Community** adopted by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. These principles can be found at <https://cfaesdei.osu.edu/about-us/cfaes-principles-community>. For additional information on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in CFAES, contact the CFAES Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (<https://cfaesdei.osu.edu/>). If you have been a victim of or a witness to harassment or discrimination or a bias incident, you can report it online and anonymously (if you choose) at <https://equity.osu.edu/>.

Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available 24/7 **by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.**

For students in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, David Wirt, wirt.9@osu.edu, is the CFAES embedded mental health counselor on the Columbus campus. To contact David, please call 614-292-5766. Students should mention their affiliation with CFAES if interested in speaking directly with David.

Religious Accommodations

Our inclusive environment allows for religious expression. Students requesting accommodations based on faith, religious or a spiritual belief system in regard to examinations, other academic requirements or absences, are required to provide the instructor with written notice of specific dates for which the student requests alternative accommodations at the earliest possible date. For more information about religious accommodations at Ohio State, visit odi.osu.edu/religious-accommodations.

The University Interfaith Council has a helpful, but non-exhaustive, [religious holiday calendar](#) to promote awareness and understanding of observances. For example, Ramadan the Muslim holy month observed through fasting, prayer and reflection coincides with the end of the semester and second-session classes, and students and instructors should be mindful of requests made for final projects and assignments.

Weather or other short-term closing

Should in-person classes be canceled, I will notify you as to which alternative methods of teaching will be offered to ensure continuity of instruction for this class. Communication will be via [CarmenCanvas, email or other mode of communication].

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Requesting Accommodations

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are isolating while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, please let me know immediately. Those testing positive for COVID-19 should refer to the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes site for resources. Beyond five days of the required COVID-19 isolation period, I may rely on Student Life Disability Services to establish further reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; or slds.osu.edu.

Disability Services Contact Information

- Phone: [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307)
- Website: slds.osu.edu
- Email: slds@osu.edu
- In person: [Baker Hall 098, 113 W. 12th Avenue](#)

Accessibility of Course Technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations as early as possible.

- [CarmenCanvas accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility)
- Streaming audio and video
- [CarmenZoom accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility)



Course Schedule

Refer to the CarmenCanvas course for up-to-date due dates.

| Week | Dates | Topics, Readings, Assignments | Due Dates [†] |
|---------------|---|--|------------------------|
| 1 | Jan 9 (T) | Welcome and Introduction | |
| | Jan 11 (Th) | Consumer Problem | |
| 2 | Jan 16 (T) | Producer Problem | |
| | Jan 18 (Th) | Demand and Supply | |
| 3 | Jan 23 (T) | Surplus and Deadweight Loss | 1/22 EOD: PS 1 |
| | Jan 25 (Th) | | |
| 4 | Jan 30 (T) | Welfare | |
| | Feb 1 (Th) | | |
| 5 | Feb 6 (T) | Review | 2/5 EOD: PS 2 |
| | Feb 8 (Th) | Midterm 1 | |
| 6 | Feb 13 (T) | Imperfect Competition and Monopoly | |
| | Feb 15 (Th) | | |
| 7 | Feb 20 (T) | Oligopoly | |
| | Feb 22 (Th) | | |
| 8 | Feb 27 (T) | Game Theory | 2/26 EOD: PS 3 |
| | Feb 29 (Th) | | |
| 9 | Mar 5 (T) | Externalities | |
| | Mar 7 (Th) | | |
| 10 | Mar 11–15 Spring Break – no classes. | | |
| 11 | Mar 19 (T) | Review | 3/18 EOD: PS 4 |
| | Mar 21 (Th) | Midterm 2 | |
| 12 | Mar 26 (T) | Public Goods | |
| | Mar 28 (Th) | | |
| 13 | Apr 2 (T) | Asymmetric Information | |
| | Apr 4 (Th) | | |
| 14 | Apr 9 (T) | Agricultural Trade and Policy | 4/8 EOD: PS 5 |
| | Apr 11 (Th) | Empirical Tools of Public Policy Analysis | |
| 15 | Apr 16 (T) | Guest Speaker: Evan Callicoat (Ohio Farm Bureau) | 4/22 EOD: PS 6 |
| | Apr 18 (Th) | Review for Final Exam | |
| Finals | Apr 24–30 Final Exam. | | 4/29 8–9:45am! |

[†]Each EOD refers to 11:59pm of the due date. For example, Problem Set 1 dues 1/22 11:59pm.

