

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **PPOG 502**

#### **ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC POLICY**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will study markets and market failure, the effects of Public Policy on economics, the effects of economics on Public Policy, and the role of government in economic issues particularly in the areas of trade, enterprise, debt and taxation, from a biblical worldview. The class will emphasize the Judeo-Christian foundations and principles of economic activity.

#### **RATIONALE**

A key consideration in all public policy initiatives will be the economic impact. Public Policy, whether implemented on the local level or internationally, is impacted by various economic theories, principles, and practicalities. This course will provide a basic overview of economics, evaluate the crucial interaction between economics and public policy, and consider the impact this interaction has on the decision making process.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Articulate the key principles of economics and the different approaches to economic policy.
- B. Interpret the economic impact of various public policy initiatives.
- C. Analyze problems of collective action and central planning.
- D. Evaluate the sources of economic growth.
- E. Articulate economic policy issues in trade, regulation, debt, taxation, and government spending.

- F. Examine all of the preceding in light of a distinctly evangelical Christian worldview and ethical system.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. A full citation to at least 1 scholarly source must be provided in current Turabian format in each thread. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 200–300 words and cite at least 1 scholarly source.

- D. News Article Reviews (2)

The student will write a 500–700-word essay, discussing current news articles that concern the interaction between markets and government. News articles used for this assignment must come from the newspaper, a news program, or some other reputable news source (either traditional such as a newspaper or news magazine, or from a reputable online source). Full citations must be provided in current Turabian format, as well as a legible scanned copy of the print article or a link to the online source.

- E. Book Reviews (2)

After reading the Gwartney et al. and Sowell textbooks, the student will write reviews summarizing and evaluating the assigned chapters in each book. Each review must be 1,200–1,500 words. A minimum of 2 scholarly sources must be cited according to current Turabian format. No more than 20 percent of each Book Review may consist of direct quotations from the reviewed book.

- F. Research Paper

The student will prepare a 2,500–3,000-word paper evaluating an aspect of the relationship between the market economy and civil government. Government action will be evaluated in the light of economic theory and Christian ethics. This paper will be submitted in the following stages: topic proposal, references list, outline, and final. A minimum of 5–7 scholarly sources must be used and cited according to current Turabian format.

- G. Quizzes (3)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 20 multiple-choice questions, and have a 45-minute time limit.

- H. Midterm Exam

The Midterm will cover the Reading & Study material for Modules/Weeks 1–4. It will be open-book/open-notes, contain 25 multiple-choice and 5 short answer questions, and

have a 1-hour and 15-minute time limit.

I. Final Exam

The Final Exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the entire course. It will be open-book/open-notes, contain 34 multiple-choice and 6 short answer questions, and have a 1-hour and 30-minute time limit.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 70 pts ea)	210
News Article Reviews (2 at 40 pts ea)	80
Book Reviews (2 at 90 pts ea)	180
Research Paper	
Topic Proposal	30
References List	15
Outline	50
Final	100
Quizzes (3 at 40 pts ea)	120
Midterm Exam (Modules 1–4)	95
Final Exam (Modules 1–8)	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739    D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PPOG 502**

Textbooks: Gwartney et al., *Common Sense Economics* (2016).  
Mises, *Economic Policy: Thoughts for Today and Tomorrow* (2006).  
Sowell, *Applied Economics: Thinking Beyond Stage One* (2009).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Gwartney et al.: Selected Readings 1 presentation 4 websites	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 70
<b>2</b>	Gwartney et al.: Selected Readings Sowell: ch. 8 1 presentation 3 websites	News Article Review 1 Quiz 1	40 40
<b>3</b>	Gwartney et al.: Selected Readings 2 presentations 2 websites	News Article Review 2 Research Paper – Topic Proposal	40 30
<b>4</b>	Gwartney et al.: Selected Readings Mises: “3rd Lecture – Interventionism” 1 presentation 1 website	Research Paper – References List Quiz 2	15 40
<b>5</b>	Gwartney et al.: Selected Readings Sowell: ch. 1 1 presentation 1 video 1 website	DB Forum 2 Research Paper – Outline Midterm Exam	70 50 95
<b>6</b>	Gwartney et al.: Selected Readings Mises: “4th Lecture – Inflation” 1 presentation 1 video 4 websites	Book Review 1 Quiz 3	90 40
<b>7</b>	Sowell: chs. 3–4, 6–7 1 presentation 2 websites	DB Forum 3 Book Review 2	70 90
<b>8</b>	Mises: “1st Lecture – Capitalism,” “2nd Lecture – Socialism” 2 presentations 1 PDF 1 website	Research Paper – Final Final Exam	100 120
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.