Syllabus Spring 2010
Econ 335V and MGT 335V
Business and Government
Class Hours: Tuesday, 6 – 8:30 pm (Guthrie 100)

Instructor: Dr. Larry Blank,
Associate Professor of Economics
Office hours: Tues. 5 – 5:45 pm; or anytime by appointment.
Office: Guthrie 401
Cell phone: 575-642-6148
E-Mail: Larryb@nmsu.edu But Blackboard email is the best.

Please use Blackboard email whenever possible. If it is an “emergency,” text me or leave a voice message on my cellphone. Do not leave a message on my office phone. When emailing, texting, or leaving a message on my cellphone, please tell me who you are what class you are in.

Course Description

This course will cover the practical application of economics and the government implementation of policy related to the following key areas of Government intervention in the marketplace:

1. Public Utility Economics and Regulation
2. Antitrust Policy and Economics
3. Taxation, Externalities and Public Goods

We will also examine market structures and market performance. Some markets in the United States are conducive to being extremely competitive while others are not. As a result, we will look at the factors that affect competition or cause market failure and the role of government intervention in the marketplace.

Course Materials

Excel spreadsheets, Word documents, and PowerPoint slides for the lectures and handouts will be posted to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to download and print these for class (or use a laptop). There is no required textbook for this course; however, it may be helpful to get a used, inexpensive Principles of Microeconomics text by any author(s).

Students are required to monitor Blackboard and their NMSU email frequently for announcements such as exam dates and materials for download.

About the Instructor

Larry Blank holds a Ph.D. in Economics with fields in Industrial Organization & Public Policy, Econometrics, and Finance. He previously served as an Economist with the National Regulatory Research Institute at Ohio State University; Manager of Regulatory Policy & Market Analysis with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada; and Project Director for technical assistance to the Energy Regulatory Commission of the Philippines while under contract with the U.S. Dept. of Energy. He
currently is an Associate Professor in NMSU’s Dept. of Economics & International Business; a Senior Associate with NMSU’s Center for Public Utilities; and the Principal Consultant of TAHOEconomics, LLC, a Nevada-based consulting firm established in 1999. As a consultant, Dr. Blank has served utility customers, utility companies, and government agencies in dozens of regulatory cases.

Please Note: NMSU offers a Masters of Economics Degree with specialization in Public Utility Regulation. Upon approval by the Graduate School, the Economics Dept. will begin offering a Graduate Certificate Program in Public Utility Economics and Regulation beginning Fall 2010. This certificate program will be available to non-economics graduate students and only requires 2 courses in the fall and 2 courses in the spring. If interested, talk to Dr. Blank.

Class attendance is very important if you want a good grade in this course. There is no one book that covers the topics covered in this course and the instructor’s teaching style and examples will differ from most textbooks. The course materials to be provided do not explain the logic behind the material. For these reasons, class attendance is very important if you want to do well on the exams.

Exams and Grading Procedures

There will be three exams during the semester. Exam dates will be emailed well in advance of the exam. The lowest of the three exam scores will be dropped when computing overall average for the semester grade. The first two exams will cover lectures subsequent to the previous exam. If you elect to take the final (third) exam, it will be comprehensive covering all material throughout the semester. All three exams are worth 100 points each. Exam dates will be posted on Blackboard well in advance of each exam.

Course letter grades will be based on the simple average of the top two exams. Instructor reserves the right to add (+) or (–) to letter grade.

- 89.2 - 100  A
- 79.2 – 89.1  B
- 69.2 – 79.1  C
- 55 – 69.1   D
- Below 55 is an F.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
If you have or believe you have a disability and would benefit from any accommodations, you may wish to self-identify by contacting the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located in Garcia Annex (phone: 646-6840). If you have already registered, please make sure that your instructor receives a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD within the first two weeks of classes. It is your responsibility to inform either your instructor or SSD representative in a timely manner if services/accommodations provided are not meeting your needs.

If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor and/or Michael Armendariz, SSD Coordinator. Feel free to call Mr. Gerard Nevarez, Director of Institutional Equity and EEO/ADA Office at 646-3635 with any questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All medical information will be treated confidentially.