Syllabus Fall 2011
Econ 335V and MGT 335V
Business and Government

Class Hours: Tuesday, 6 – 8:30 pm (Guthrie 201)

Instructor: Dr. Larry Blank
Office hours: Mon and Weds: 4:30 – 5:30pm; Tues 3 – 5pm; or by appointment.
Office: Guthrie 401
Cell phone: 575-642-6148
E-Mail: Larryb@nmsu.edu

Please use BLACKBOARD email whenever possible. If it is an “emergency,” text me or leave a voice message on my cellphone. Do not leave messages on my office phone. When emailing or leaving a message on my cellphone, please tell me what class you are taking. Blackboard is best way to communicate because I automatically know the class in which you are taking.

Optional Textbook for those who want a reference tool for basic microeconomic models:
Principles of Microeconomics
By Libby Rittenberg and Timothy Tregarthen
ISBN: 978-0-9820430-3-5
Available at Flat World

Use the following link to view textbook purchase options:
http://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/629824

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. The areas to be covered are as follows:

1. Market Failures
2. Normative Theories for Government Regulation
3. Positive Theories on Government Regulation
4. Public Utility Regulation (electricity, natural gas, and water utilities)
5. Antitrust Policy and Economics
6. Government Taxation
7. Government response to Externalities
8. Government response to 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 will be posted on Blackboard. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DOWNLOAD THE MATERIALS POSTED TO BLACKBOARD AND
HAVE THEM AVAILABLE DURING CLASS. 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 their Blackboard email frequently for announcements such as exam dates. Also note that all official NMSU emails are sent to your NMSU email address so you should be checking that frequently or simply set it up so that NMSU emails are automatically forwarded to your favorite email address.

About the Instructor

Larry Blank holds a Ph.D. in Economics with fields in Industrial Organization & Public Policy, Econometrics, and Finance. Dr. Blank specializes in government policy and regulation of the utility sector. 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 of Economics; the Associate Director of 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 a specialization in Public Utility Regulation. Over 100 former NMSU graduates now work in this field across the nation. If you are interested in this Masters program, please set up an appointment with the instructor to discuss.

For non-economics students, we also offer a Graduate Certificate in Public Utility Regulation & Economics.

The Certificate in Public Utility Regulation and Economics (PURE) is a professional educational program designed for post-baccalaureate students pursuing a career in the utility sector with an electric utility, natural gas utility, water distribution utility, or with a government agency regulating these types of companies. This is a multi-disciplinary field and, therefore, students with educational backgrounds in accounting, government, finance, business administration, public administration, engineering, law, and economics are usually well-suited to pursue a career in this industry and are encouraged to consider this certificate program. The PURE program provides advanced technical instruction on utility industry analysis and prepares students for the rigors of utility regulatory methods, policy, and analytical applications.

All PURE student applicants must meet the minimum requirements specified in the general regulations and requirements for admission to the Graduate School.

All students in the PURE program must successfully complete the following courses (12 credits): Econ 571, Econ 572, Econ 573, and Econ 574. These credits may be transferred for credit toward the Master of Arts in Economics.

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.
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 at least two weeks prior to 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.

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89.2 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>79.2 – 89.1</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>69.2 – 79.1</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>55 – 69.1</td>
<td>D</td>
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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have, or believe you have a disability, you may contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Office located in Corbett Center, Room 244, 575-646-6840, or email sas@nmsu.edu. Appropriate accommodations may then be provided for you. All medical information will be treated confidentially.

If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the Director of University Disability Services/ADA Coordinator, Diana Quintana, at the SAS Office. Questions regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or the American with Disabilities Amendment Act should be directed to the SAS Office.

Questions regarding NMSU's Non-discrimination Policy and discrimination complaints should be referred to Gerard Nevarez, Office of Institutional Equity, 575-646-3635.