PAM 346 - ECONOMICS OF SOCIAL SECURITY
(cross-listed with ECON 447)

Text: The text consists of a packet of articles and book chapters that illustrate the art of policy analysis. All articles are currently on reserve at Mann Library.

This course provides an economic perspective for students interested in aging issues. You will develop an economic tool-kit for evaluating social security policies. You will read articles on selected social security issues that illustrate the use of economic analysis to predict the behavioral affects and income distribution consequences of government policy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Assigned readings below.
3. Out of class assignments.
4. Attendance and active participation in class.
5. A midterm and a comprehensive final exam.

Grading Policy

The approximate weights in your final grade are:

- 30 percent Midterm exam
- 20 percent ADA position brief
- 10 percent Out of class assignments
- 40 percent Final exam
COURSE PREPARATION

The course prerequisite is Intermediate Microeconomics (PAM 200) or its equivalents. It is designed for students with a grasp of applied micro theory and a desire to use it to evaluate public policies targeting older people. Because statistical evidence is brought to bear in some of the articles on the reading list, Introduction to Multivariate Analysis (PAM 305) or its equivalent will provide useful background for this course. However, it is not required. I will provide in class, a heuristic guide for interpreting key statistical concepts and results.

The course primarily deals with Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (Social Security) because that is the single most important social program in the United States budget and it most dramatically affects older people. But other programs Supplemental Security Income, Food Stamps, etc. will be discussed as will policies that attempt to end discrimination against the old or those with disabilities.

IMPORTANT DATES

Midterm exam: March 15
Class Discussion of Section 503: April 28 through May 5
Comprehensive Final Exam: May 17, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

SCHEDULED CLASSES

Jan. 24th Introduction

Jan. 26th — 28th Responsibility of Researchers in a Political World


Burkhauser, Richard V., Timothy M. Smeeding, and Joachim Merz. 1996. Relative Inequality and Poverty in Germany and the United States Using Alternative Equivalency Scales. The Review of Income and Wealth,
Feb. 14th — 18th  Measuring Winners and Losers: Economic Well-Being and Income Inequality


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Feb. 21st — 28th  Measures of Economic Well-Being: Single Versus Multi-Period Analysis


Feb. 28th —
March 3rd  Program Concepts: In-Kind versus In-Cash Transfers and Welfare versus Insurance Programs


March 6th — 10th  Program Concepts: Horizontal versus Vertical Equity


March 13th — 17th  Review/Midterm Exam

March 20th — 25th  Spring Break
March 27th — 31st  Managing Social Security


April 3rd — 7th  The Labor Force Participation of Older Workers


April 10th — 14th  What is Discrimination and How is it Measured?


April 17th — 21st

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990


April 24th — May 5th

Making Disability Policy: Section 305 of the ADA


Comprehensive Final Exam

(9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)