



# ECON853

## Economics of Public Issues

S2 Evening 2017

*Dept of Economics*

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## General Information

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Credit points

4

#### Prerequisites

((ECON632 or ECON633 or ECON649) and 16cp at 800 level or above) or (16cp at 800 level or above including POL802 or SOC810)

#### Corequisites

#### Co-badged status

#### Unit description

This unit covers selected topic areas with an emphasis on the application of economic theory and research methods to particular public issues, including education, environment, energy policy, tourism, defence, housing, drugs, privatisation, transport, and the arts.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Demonstrate advanced knowledge of key economic ideas and how they apply to the problems faced by economic decision makers.

Demonstrate ability to integrate and synthesise learning in order to critically reflect upon complex economic issues and evaluate established knowledge

Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively with specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Demonstrate an awareness of the ethical dimension of business practice.

Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a team

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Major Project</a>	40%	No	November 8 (Week 13)
<a href="#">Major Class Presentation</a>	20%	No	November 8 (week 13)
<a href="#">Individual Assignments</a>	40%	No	Sept 27, Oct 25 and Nov 8

## Major Project

Due: **November 8 (Week 13)**

Weighting: **40%**

This Major Project involves a team based written report with several parts.

Part 1. Written report will be up to 2000 words in length and is worth 20% of the overall grade in the unit (20 marks out of 40 for this task). The question for this project will be based on the lectures delivered by Professor David Throsby.

Team work will be an important part of your experience in ECON853. In week one each student will be placed in a group. Each group will work throughout the session to produce a written 2,000 word report on a chosen topic. The report will be produced in a staged process over the course of the session with regular feedback provided by academic staff. The final report needs to be submitted via Turnitin before the start of class on November 8. Information about this task will be presented in lecture one. A detailed document about this task will be available on iLearn.

The emphasis in the Major Project will be on the ability to think critically, to evaluate established knowledge, and to integrate and analyse the advanced economic ideas encountered during the degree program. Attendance at lectures is required for you to be able to complete this task successfully. By attending all lectures, and doing the associated readings, you will equip yourself to undertake this task successfully.

It is not possible to grant extensions for this task. If students encounter any problems in relation to this task they are encouraged to speak to Michael Dobbie as soon as possible.

Part 2. Team Diary. In lecture 1 you will be given some instruction in the theory and practice of teamwork. As part of the process of creating the written report your team needs to create a diary of the process. This diary needs to be submitted via Turnitin before class on November 8. More instruction will be provided in lecture 1. Specific documentation will also be placed on iLearn. This will contribute a team mark of 5% of the overall grade in the unit (5 marks out of the 40 for this task).

Part 3. Individual reflection. Each student is required to produce an individual reflection addressing specific aspects of the teamwork aspect of producing the team report. This is submitted via Turnitin before class on November 8. More detail will be provided in lecture 1 and a detailed document will be placed on iLearn. This task will contribute 15% of the overall grade in the unit (15 marks out of the 40 for this task).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of key economic ideas and how they apply to the problems faced by economic decision makers.
- Demonstrate ability to integrate and synthesise learning in order to critically reflect upon complex economic issues and evaluate established knowledge
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively with specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the ethical dimension of business practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a team

## Major Class Presentation

Due: **November 8 (week 13)**

Weighting: **20%**

On November 8 (week 13) each group will make a presentation to the class that summarises the main findings from the Major Project. Each individual member of the group must contribute equally to the presentation and each individual will receive an individual mark for their contribution (20 marks). More information about the presentation will be provided in lecture one. This will include instruction on how to make a good presentation. A detailed document about this task will be available on iLearn. There will be a trial run for this presentation in class on November 1.

It is not possible to grant extensions for this task. If students encounter any problems in relation to this task they should contact Michael Dobbie straight away.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively with specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a team

## Individual Assignments

Due: **Sept 27, Oct 25 and Nov 8**

Weighting: **40%**

Three 1,000 word Individual Assignments. These are equally weighted and together contribute 40% of your overall mark in the unit. Individual Assignment One will be based on the lectures of given by Dr Wylie Bradford. Individual Assignment Two will be based on the lectures given by Dr Craig MacMillan. Individual Assignment Three will be based on the lectures given by Professor Geoff Kingston.

Individual Assignment One is due on September 27, 6pm via Turnitin

Individual Assignment Two is due on October 25, 6pm via Turnitin

Individual Assignment Three is due on November 8, 6pm via Turnitin

These Individual Assignments will give you the opportunity to problem solve, integrate and synthesise knowledge obtained across the economics program, evaluate established knowledge, undertake research and communicate on policy issues. Attendance at all lectures is essential to be able to complete this task successfully. By attending the lectures and doing the associated readings you will equip yourself with the ability to undertake these assignments successfully. A separate document for each assignment will outline in detail what is required. These documents will be made available on iLearn. The Individual Assignments are submitted via Turnitin.

No extensions can be granted in relation to this task. Late assignments will be accepted up to 72 hours after the submission deadline. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example 25 hours late will involve a 20% deduction). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application is made under the university Disruption to Studies policy, and where that application results in a formal extension of the deadline.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of key economic ideas and how they apply to the problems faced by economic decision makers.
- Demonstrate ability to integrate and synthesise learning in order to critically reflect upon complex economic issues and evaluate established knowledge
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively with specialist and non-specialist audiences.

## Delivery and Resources

### Learning and Teaching Strategy

The unit operates with a three hour weekly lecture. In addition readings are set for each lecture and it is in your interest to read these. There is no set textbook in the unit.

## Unit Schedule

Week	Lecturer	Lecture Topics
1 Aug 2	Michael Dobbie	Introduction to ECON853. What is a Capstone Unit?  Students placed into teams for team work purposes.
2 Aug 9	David Throsby	Economics of education and foreign student flows
3 Aug 16	David Throsby	Arts industries and the creative economy
4 Aug 23	David Throsby	Economics of cultural heritage
5 Aug 30	David Throsby	Ecological economics and sustainable development

6 Sep 6	Wylie Bradford	Fairness, Inequality and Justice
7 Sep 13	Wylie Bradford	Climate Change
Recess Sep 20		
Recess Sep 27		
8 Oct 4	Craig MacMillan	The Moral Limits of Markets: Perspectives from the Social Sciences
9 Oct 11	Craig MacMillan	Moral Judgement About Market-Based Solutions to the Kidney Shortage
10 Oct 18	Geoff Kingston	Superannuation
11 Oct 25	Geoff Kingston	Retirement pensions and taxes
12 Nov 1	Michael Dobbie	Trial run for Major Presentation to be held in class. Feedback provided.
13 Nov 8	ECON853 staff	Major Project due in class. Major Class presentation held in class.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html)

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint\\_management/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html)

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/)



[offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](#).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcome

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of key economic ideas and how they apply to the problems faced by economic decision makers.

#### Assessment tasks

- Major Project
- Individual Assignments

### PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcome

- Demonstrate ability to integrate and synthesise learning in order to critically reflect upon complex economic issues and evaluate established knowledge

#### Assessment tasks

- Major Project
- Individual Assignments

### PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively with specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a team

## **Assessment tasks**

- Major Project
- Major Class Presentation
- Individual Assignments

## **PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens**

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcome**

- Demonstrate an awareness of the ethical dimension of business practice.

## **Assessment task**

- Major Project

## **Changes from Previous Offering**

In 2015 the unit ran in a seminar format. In 2016 the unit will run in a traditional lecture format.

## **Changes since First Published**

Date	Description
31/07/2017	Mark for Team diary reduced to 5 from 10. Mark for Individual Reflection increased from 10 to 15.