



ECON853

Economics of Public Issues

S2 Evening 2019

Dept of Economics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer and Unit Convenor

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4ER249

Consultation hours: see iLearn page

Lecturer

Professor David Throsby

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Lecturer

Rohan Best

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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
Major Project	40%	No	Week 13
Major Class Presentation	20%	No	Week 13
Individual Assignment	40%	No	Week 12

Major Project

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

This Major Project involves a team based written report with two 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. 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.

If students encounter any problems in relation to this task they are encouraged to speak to Dr Marjan Nazifi as soon as possible.

Part 2. 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. More detail will be provided in lecture 1 and a detailed document will be placed on iLearn. This task will contribute 20% of the overall grade in the unit (20 marks out of the 40 for this task).

No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

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.
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- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a team

Major Class Presentation

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **20%**

In 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 in week 12.

No extensions will be granted. Students who are not available to complete the task at the designated time will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which a formal application for Special Consideration is made (via <http://www.ask.mq.edu.au/>) and approved. If that application for Special Consideration is approved you will be expected to undertake an alternative assessment task, this might involve an oral or written assessment task. If students encounter any problems in relation to this task they should contact Marjan Nazifi 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 Assignment

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **40%**

An individual written assignment represents 40% of the overall mark in the unit.

This assignment will be based on the lectures delivered by Dr Rohan Best.

This Individual Assignment will give you the opportunity to problem solve, integrate and synthesise knowledge obtained across the economics program, evaluate established knowledge, deploy appropriate ethical frameworks when required, 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 this assignment successfully. A separate document for individual assignment will outline in detail what is required. This document will be made available on iLearn. The Individual Assignment is submitted via Turnitin.

No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

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

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

Lecture 1 July 30	Marjan Nazifi	Introduction to ECON853.		
Lecture 2 Aug 6	David Throsby	Economics of education and economic aspects of international foreign student flows		
Lecture 3 Aug 13	David Throsby	Environmental and ecological economics		
Lecture 4 Aug 20	David Throsby	Sustainable development and climate change		
Lecture 5 Aug 27	David Throsby	Arts industries and the creative economy		
Lecture 6 Sep 3	David Throsby	The economics of cultural heritage		
Lecture 7 Sep 10	David Throsby	The economics of tourism		
Recess Sep 17 and Sep 24.				
Lecture 8 Oct 1	Rohan Best	Environmental policies 1: general overview		
Lecture 9 Oct 8	Rohan Best	Environmental policies 2: carbon pricing		
Lecture 10 Oct 15	Rohan Best	Optimal taxation: consumption vs. income taxes		
Lecture 11 Oct 22	Rohan Best	Public sector role in economic growth and development		
Lecture 12 Oct 29	Marjan Nazifi	Trial run for major presentation	Individual assignment due.	
Lecture 13 Nov 5	Marjan Nazifi	Major presentation	Major project and presentation due November 5. Individual team work reflection due November 12	

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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) 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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit 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 Assignment

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 Assignment

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 Assignment

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 tasks

- Major Project

- Individual Assignment

Changes from Previous Offering

No significant change from previous offering in 2017..