

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COURSE INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT: Economics **IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** On or after Fall Term 1998

Revised: _____

Economics 397 Business and Government I - 4
SUBJECT/NUMBER OF COURSE **DESCRIPTIVE TITLE** **UCFV CREDITS**
Topics in Microeconomics

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This is an issues-oriented topics course, designed for students with a minimal background in business and economics. The course is focussed on the application of microeconomics to the role of business and to the regulatory role of government in the economy. The course is designed as a practical introduction to such issues as, for example, industrial strategy, competition policy and patent policy. This is not a theory course, and as such, economic theory and analysis is developed in the course only to the extent necessary to understand public policy issues of business and of government regulation and intervention. The aim is to understand the divergent private business and public policy interests with respect to a number of regulatory issues.

RATIONALE: Part of Economics Upper Division Curriculum. (Approved by UCC, Dec. 1994.)

COURSE PREREQUISITES: 60 credits, and either any lower-level Economics course or POSC 110.

COURSE COREQUISITES: N/A

HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT	Lecture/Seminar	45	hrs	Student Directed Learning	15 hrs
	Laboratory		hrs	Other - specify:	
	Field Experience		hrs	_____	
				TOTAL	60 HRS

MAXIMUM ENROLMENT: 28

Is transfer credit requested? **9** Yes : No

AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:

Course Designer(s): Economics Curriculum Committee: I. McAskill **Chairperson:** E. Davis
Curriculum Committee

Department Head: I. McAskill for J. Belec **Dean:** J.D. Tunstall

PAC: Approval in Principle _____ **PAC: Final Approval:** November 26, 1997
(Date) **(Date)**

Econ 397
NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

SYNONYMOUS COURSES:

(a) replaces N/A
 (course #)

(b) cannot take N/A for further credit
 (course #)

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)

Instructor choice (examples)

Brander, J., Government Policy Toward Business, 2nd. Ed. 1992 Butterworths.

Strick, The Economics of Government Regulation, Theory and Canadian Practice, 2nd. Ed., 1994, Thompson.

Various journal articles and government documents.

OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to introduce the non-business major student to general microeconomic issues of government regulation of business. In this context, the course is designed to inform students about public policy issues associated with business enterprise and government regulation in a number of industries. The objective is to provide primarily non-economics majors with an economic understanding of public policy as it pertains to Canadian industry. For the non-economist, the course will inform about the nature of business organization in a number of sectors.

METHODS:

Lecture/Seminar

Directed research

STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

(Instructor discretion:)

Class participation/Presentation	0 - 15%
Research and Term Paper	15 - 40%
Midterm	15 - 30%
Final	35 - 55%

(Instructor Discretion)

Econ 397

NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

COURSE CONTENT

- 2 weeks The public sector in a mixed economy: Introduction:
kinds of activity, division of powers, size of federal and provincial government in economy,
economic roles and rationales
- 2 weeks Theory of government intervention and regulation
economic regulation and social regulation
overview of regulated industries
- 2 weeks Firms, markets, and regulatory pricing policies,
Theories of price regulation, perspectives on intervention,
deregulation, and “privatization”
- 2 weeks Canadian Industrial Organization, trade policy and industrial policy
- 2 weeks Competition policy, anti-dumping (Canadian International Trade Tribunal Act)
Patent policy (applied to PMPRB)
- 1 week Taxation, theory and policy:
- 3 weeks Selected topics