

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

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

**Revised:** September 2006

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

**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 an applied 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

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

**MAXIMUM ENROLMENT:** 28

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

<b>AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:</b>	
<b>Course Designer(s):</b> <u>Economics Curriculum Committee: I. McAskill</u>	<b>Chairperson:</b> <u>E. Davis</u> <b>Curriculum Committee</b>
<b>Department Head:</b> <u>I. McAskill for J. Belec</u>	<b>Dean:</b> <u>J.D. Tunstall</u>
<b>PAC: Approval in Principle</b> _____ (Date)	<b>PAC: Final Approval:</b> <u>December 14, 2005</u> (Date)

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**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)

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**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