

**Princeton University**  
**Woodrow Wilson School Graduate Program**  
**Fall 2003**

**WWS 593i**  
**The Federal Budget**  
Mondays, 9:00 PM to Noon  
Robertson Hall, Room 015

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**Description:**

This course will cover the way the Federal budget process is supposed to work and the way it actually does work. In the first two weeks, students will learn the budget process's definitions, concepts, procedures, and schedules. In the second two weeks, students will learn about the history of the budget process and how budgeting in Washington has reached its current impasse. The final two weeks of the course, which will involve considerable in-class participation by students, will explore some of the reforms that have been proposed to repair the budget process and some possible future directions that it might take.

**Course Assignments and Grading:**

15% class participation, particularly in the last two weeks of the course  
35% in-class quiz (one hour) on definitions, concepts, procedures, and schedules (September 29)  
50% 12-page, double-spaced term paper either predicting what will or prescribing what should happen in the future to the Federal budget process or some aspect of the Federal budget process (due October 28)

**Consequences:**

There will be no make-up exam for those who miss the in-class quiz. Failure to take the in-class quiz will result in a grade of zero for that part of the course. The only exceptions to this will be incapacitating illness, family tragedy, or national emergency.

The 12-page, double-spaced term paper is due October 27. Failure to turn it in by that date will result in a decrement of one letter grade. Failure to turn it in by

November 3 will result in a decrement of two letter grades. Failure to turn it in by November 10 will result in a zero for that part of the course.

## **COURSE TIMELINE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

### **September 15 and 22: Budget definitions, concepts, procedures, and schedules**

Required reading:

*The Federal Budget: Politics, Policy, Process*, Allen Schick

*The Guide to the Federal Budget*, Stanley Collender

*The Congressional Budget Process*, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate (on reserve)

Other resources:

Websites of the House and Senate Budget Committees, pages relating to definitions and procedures.

### **September 29 and October 6: The History of the Budget Process**

**\*\*\*\*\*In-class quiz on September 29\*\*\*\*\***

Required reading:

*Reconcilable Differences?*, John B. Gilmour, Introduction plus Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5

*Making Ends Meet: Congressional Budgeting in the Age of Deficits*, Daniel P. Franklin, Chapters 3 and 4

Other resources:

*The New Politics of the Budgetary Process*, Aaron Wildavsky, Chapters 2, 3, and 4

“The First Five Years of Congressional Budgeting”, Allen Schick, in *The Congressional Budget Process After Five Years*, edited by Rudolph G. Penner

*The Tax Decade*, C. Eugene Steuerle, Chapters 1 through 4, 11, and 12

*The Fiscal Revolution in American*, Herbert Stein

**October 13 and 20: Problems and Possible Solutions**

**\*\*\*\*\*Term paper due October 28\*\*\*\*\***

Required reading:

*Federal Budget Estimating*, CBO Director Dan L. Crippen, Testimony before the House Rules Committee, Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, May 9, 2002 (reading packet)

*Supplement to CBO's May 9, 2002 Testimony on Federal Budget Estimating*, Congressional Budget Office Report, May 2002 (reading packet)

*Budget Surpluses: Experiences of Other Nations and Implications for the United States*, GAO Report to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Budget Committee, November 1999 (reading packet)

*Budget Process: Extending Budget Controls*, Susan J. Irving, Director of Federal Budget Analysis at GAO, Testimony before the House Budget Committee, April 25, 2002 (reading packet)

*Issues in Budget Reform*, Bill G. Gale, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Testimony before the House Budget Committee, May 2, 2002 (reading packet)

*The Role of the Congressional Budget Office*, Rudolph G. Penner, Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute, Testimony before the House Budget Committee, May 2, 2002 (reading packet)

*Repairing the Congressional Budget Process*, Rudolph G. Penner, May 2001 (reading packet)

*Testimony on Budget Enforcement Act Extension*, Carol Cox Wait, President of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, Testimony before the House Budget Committee, June 27, 2002 (reading packet)

*Testimony on Fundamental Budget Process Reform*, Bill Frenzel, Co-Chairman of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and Former Ranking Republican on the House Budget Committee, Testimony before the House Budget Committee, July 19, 2002 (reading packet)

*The Budget and the Budget Process*, Richard Kogan, Senior Fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Testimony before the House Budget Committee, April 25, 2002 (reading packet)

*Budgetary Discipline*, CBO Deputy Director Barry B. Anderson, Testimony before the House Budget Committee, April 25, 2002 (reading packet)

*The Budget Outlook and Options for Fiscal Policy*, Alan J. Auerbach, William G. Gale, and Peter R. Orszag, April 2002 (reading packet)

*Macroeconomic Implications of Federal Budget Proposals and the Scoring Process*, Peter R. Orszag, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Testimony before the House Rules Committee, Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, May 2, 2002 (reading packet)

*Testimony Concerning Modeling the Economic Effects of Changes in Tax Policy*, JCT Chief of Staff Lindy L. Paull, Testimony before the House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, May 6, 2002 (reading packet)

*Statement on Dynamic Scoring*, Kevin A. Hassett, Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, Testimony before the House Budget Committee, May 2, 2002 (reading packet)

Other Resources:

*The New Politics of the Budgetary Process*, Aaron Wildavsky