Syllabus PUBP 4813/PUBP 6120/ECON 6150

Spring 2027

Cost Benefit Analysis for Policy, 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR	EMAIL
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Description

Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) is an essential tool for policy decision-making used by government and private sector decision-makers. Founded in welfare economics, CBA addresses how to efficiently allocate scarce resources.

In this course, you will learn the principles of cost-benefit analysis and how to apply them to a variety of public policy issues. Through lectures and case studies, we will explore the techniques used to identify potential outcomes of policy interventions and estimate their associated costs and benefits. Additionally, we will discuss the ethical considerations of cost-benefit analysis and implications for policy design.

During class, we will cover foundational topics and discuss their application to current events. Outside of class, you are expected to review the literature and practice problem-solving by applying the topics covered in class. By the end of the course, you should be able to evaluate the consequences of policy interventions through cost-benefit analysis as well as critically analyze cost-benefit analyses.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to...

1. Explain the theoretical foundations of cost-benefit analysis
2. Identify and explain steps in conducting a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis
3. Critically evaluate cost-benefit analyses and prescribe strategies to address shortcomings
4. Create your own cost-benefit analysis (PUBP 6120/ECON 6150)

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Text: *Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, 5th ed. by Boardman, Greenberg, Vining, and Weimer, Cambridge University Press, doi:10.1017/9781108235594 ISBN: 9781108235594.

COURSE Assignments + GRADING

Course Assignments

Assignment	Weight (Percentage)
Homework (x5)	30% (6% each)
Reaction Papers/ Participation	10%
Exam	30%
Project	30% PUBP 6120/ECON 6150: Detailed proposal (5%), presentation (5%), and final paper (20%) PUBP 4813: Presentation (5%) and final paper (25%)

There is no final exam. The final project paper, due 5/3, serves as the final assessment.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale. Grades of C or higher are considered a pass for students taking the course pass/fail.

A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F 0-59%

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

Attendance

Class participation and discussion are an integral part of the learning process, especially for this course. To encourage participation, attendance is required and represents a portion of the final grade. Full points for attendance will be given for submitting in-class activities.

AI Policy

In this course, use of generative AI tools is allowed. This said, I only recommend it when used to support your own learning. As with any technology, generative AI tools need to be used critically and according to academic and professional expectations. When using generative AI tools, you are expected to adhere to the following principles:

- You are responsible for the work you submit. This means that any work you submit should be your own with any AI-generated assistance appropriately disclosed.
- Any AI-generated content you use in the work for the course should be clearly acknowledged.
- Cite any content generated by an AI tool as you would when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing ideas, text, images or other content made by others. Do not present the

output of AI tools as your own writing, which may constitute a violation of academic integrity.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Honor Code, please visit http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/ or https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/17/.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at 404-894-9928 or dsinfo@gatech.edu, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgment, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/21/ for an articulation of some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Georgia Tech provides a variety of resources around campus to support students and their learning. These include resources such as The Counseling Center, The Communication Center, and The Center for Academic Success.

See students.gatech.edu/student-resource-guide for a list of relevant campus resources available to Georgia Tech students.