

**Washington State Budget Process**  
**CRN 10216**  
**2 Credit Hours**  
**Fall 2020**  
**Michael Crow**

Office hours: By appointment

Cell phone: (517) 410-4175

Class dates and times:

Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 5 – 9 pm

Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 4 pm

Sunday, November 15, 9 am – 4 pm

Canvas Page: <https://canvas.evergreen.edu/courses/3436>

E-mail: [crawm@evergreen.edu](mailto:crawm@evergreen.edu)

**Course objectives**

More than any other arena of state policymaking, budget policy invites conflict. Budget policy consists of decisions on how governments will raise revenues and how those revenues will be distributed across different policy goals, agencies and programs. In short, budgets determine who will bear the costs of state government and who will receive its benefits and thus invariably creates winners and losers.

As future public sector professionals, you will be an active participant in budgetary decision-making. In many cases, you may need to make decisions between different program priorities. In others, you may need to advocate for resources for a particular program or agency. And in still others, you will need to determine what resources are needed to achieve particular outcomes efficiently and effectively. In this course, you will develop analytic skills for each of these types of policy decisions. By the end of this course, you will have demonstrated your ability to:

- Evaluate the economic and political constraints on state government budgets
- Analyze the economic and social impact of tax and spending proposals at the state level
- Compare the process of state budget development in Washington to that in other states
- Evaluate alternative arrangements for intergovernmental finance between federal and state governments and state and local governments

## **Communications**

I encourage and expect contact from you over the quarter. The easiest way to reach me is by e-mail (crawm@evergreen.edu). You may also reach me at my cell number above during reasonable hours (between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m.). Or you may make an appointment with me for a one-on-one Zoom conference or phone call.

I use Evergreen's e-mail and the course Canvas system to conduct course business. If you do not use Evergreen's e-mail system, please be sure to forward messages from this account to the e-mail account that you use. I will also place course assignments, handouts and PowerPoint slides on the course Canvas site.

## **Course materials**

*Books:* You are required to have two books for this course:

Forsythe, Dall and Donald Boyd. 2012. *Memos to the Governor: An Introduction to State Budgeting*. 3rd edition. Georgetown University Press.

Newman, Katherine, and Rourke O'Brien. 2011. *Taxing the Poor: Doing Damage to the Truly Disadvantaged*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Additional course readings will be made available on the course Canvas site

## **Course assignments, credit, and assessment**

You will be evaluated in this course based on your progress in meeting the course objectives described above, as assessed by the following assignments and requirements. To earn full credit for the course, students must satisfactorily complete all the following requirements:

**Course participation:** One of the primary objectives of this class is to develop your ability to critically analyze budget policy issues. In class sessions and activities, we will engage in activities such as discussion and group work that will call on you to apply new ideas from the reading to policy problems. Thus, it is important for you to come to the class prepared to participate by having studied the assigned reading. Your participation will be assessed on the following criteria:

--- *Attendance:* You are expected to be present for the scheduled times when we meet together via Zoom on November 13-15.

--- *Collegiality:* Showing respect for your peers by being in class on time, staying through the entire session, and respecting the views of others in class discussion.

--- *Preparation*: Completing reading before class, coming to class prepared with assignments and reading materials, active participation in discussion and small group work.

--- *Engagement out of class*: Our sessions on November 13-15 are not the only opportunity to discuss course ideas with me. I want to know if you are having trouble with the material and what you like and don't like about the course. You may reach me by e-mail or at my cell phone, and I am available to schedule a Zoom chat session as necessary.

**Book review**: Professional and academic book reviews play an important role in explaining the main ideas from a book and in evaluating its quality and the implications for future research, public policy and society as a whole. This helps to point experts in an area to significant new research that one should read and to put this work in the context of other research.

As preparation for our November 13-15 meeting, you will write a scholarly review of one of the two books assigned for this course. Forsythe and Boyd's *Memos to the Governor* or Newman and O'Brien's *Taxing the Poor*. Your review is due on Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 p.m.

An assignment sheet with additional information is on our course Canvas page

**Analytic essay**: After completing our weekend session, you will write an essay of 1500 – 3000 words (5 – 10 pages double spaced) in response to an essay question that I will provide for you in class. This essay will test your ability to integrate course readings, discussions, assignments, and analytic skills in order to apply them to ongoing dilemmas in state budgeting. Your response to this essay question will be due Saturday, December 5 at 11:00 pm.

**Evaluation**: Students must complete a self-evaluation and faculty evaluation and must participate in an evaluation conference with the faculty member. The evaluations must be submitted using the My Evergreen system ([my.evergreen.edu](http://my.evergreen.edu)).

### **Submitting Assignments**

Assignments may be submitted to me either on Canvas and/or by email to me ([crawm@evergreen.edu](mailto:crawm@evergreen.edu)). I recommend both uploading your assignment to Canvas and emailing it to me to ensure I receive it. It is your responsibility to assure that I have received your work on time.

### **Academic Integrity**

Cheating, plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity standards will not be tolerated. Any student turning in work that is in violation of Evergreen's academic integrity standards will automatically receive a No Credit in the course and the matter will be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary action. An overview of academic integrity standards and the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities are available at <https://www.evergreen.edu/studentaffairs/rightsandresponsibilities>

## Accessibility

Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of The Evergreen State College to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented), and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible, so that we can discuss with the office of Access Services for Students with Disabilities (360-867-6348; [accessservices@evergreen.edu](mailto:accessservices@evergreen.edu)) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of the course. For more information, please visit the Access Services website at <https://www.evergreen.edu/access>.

## Course schedule

Our course will take place the weekend of November 13-15, and will be divided into five modules. Reading assignments for each module are noted below.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic and reading assigned</b>
<b>Saturday, November 7</b>	<b>Book review due at 11:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday, November 13 5 pm – 9 pm</b>	<b>State Budget Formation</b> Forsythe and Dahl, <i>Memos to the Governor</i>
<b>Saturday, November 14 9 am – Noon</b>	<b>Washington State Budget Process</b> Office of Financial Management, "A Guide to the Washington State Budget Process" (Canvas)  National Association of State Budget Officers. "Summary: Spring 2020 Fiscal Survey of States" (Canvas)  <b>Guest Speaker:</b> Nona Snell, Assistant Director for Budget, Washington State Office of Financial Management
<b>Saturday, November 14 1 pm – 4 pm</b>	<b>Intergovernmental Finance</b> Oates, "An Essay on Fiscal Federalism" (Canvas)  Judd and Swanstrom, "The Metropolitan Chase" (Canvas)  Mullins and Wallin, "Tax and Expenditure Limitations: Introduction and Overview" (Canvas)  <b>Guest Speaker:</b> Larry Geri, Dean and Faculty in Public Administration
<b>Sunday, November 15 9 am – Noon</b>	<b>State Tax Incidence</b> Newman and O'Brien, <i>Taxing the Poor</i>

<p><b>Sunday, November 15</b> <b>1 pm – 4 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Education Finance in Washington</b> Augenblick et al., "Equity and Adequacy in School Funding" (Canvas)</p> <p>McDermott, "Local Control and Democracy in Education" (Canvas)</p> <p>Washington Senate Ways and Means Committee. "The 2020 Citizens Guide to K-12 Finance" (Canvas)</p> <p>Washington State Budget and Policy Center. "A Paramount Duty: Funding Education for McCleary and Beyond." (Canvas)</p>
<p><b>Saturday, December 5</b></p>	<p><b>Analytic Essay due at 11:00 p.m.</b></p>