

Economics 4999 Colorado Economy

Fall 2006

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Office: Econ 10

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-2:00pm and by appointment

### **A. Syllabus**

#### **Course Objectives:**

This course will introduce students to major issues confronting the Colorado economy. In each section of the course major issues

Students can miss one class in each section of the course without penalty, additional absences will result in lower grades on the topic.

## **Grading**

Students will receive three grades representing each section of the course. Each of those grades will be based upon the essay and class attendance and participation. Each of the three grades will be equally weighted in the final grade.

## **Disclaimer:**

This class will be conducted in conformity to all of the rules and procedures which are provided in publications by the University of Colorado

## **B. Topical Outline and Assignments**

### **Introduction (Aug. 29-31)**

#### **Suggested Readings**

Mike Bird, The Economic Development of Colorado in Historical Perspective  
<http://i2i.org/article.aspx?ID=640>

Henry Sobanet, Colorado's Economy and Budget,  
[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/govnr\\_dir/ospb/specialreports/coeconpresentation\\_june05.pdf](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/specialreports/coeconpresentation_june05.pdf)

Colorado Constitution (for reference purposes)  
<http://i2i.org/Publications/ColoradoConstitution/iscolocn.htm>

### **Section I Tax and Fiscal Policy Issues**

## **Fiscal Constitution Reform**

### **Legislation**

Referendum #88 Rebate of Money Above referendum C Estimates  
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/c6083eca0cdbe3fd87257186007644c5?OpenDocument>

Referendum C Proposal, Ballot Analysis, and Fiscal Note  
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/deb289c855a0758987256ffc006efc97?OpenDocument>



## Important Links

State Policy Network Tax Reform

[file:///F:/University/fall06-999/Tax%20and%20Finance\\_files/State%20Policy%20Network%20%20Publications.htm](file:///F:/University/fall06-999/Tax%20and%20Finance_files/State%20Policy%20Network%20%20Publications.htm)

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center

<http://i2i.org/fiscalspolicycenter.aspx>

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy

<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies

<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

Americans for Prosperity

<http://www.americansforprosperity.org/>

## Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state rebate money above the referendum C estimates?

Should the TABOR Amendment be modified or repealed?

“ “ Gallagher Amendment “ “ “ “

“ “ Amendment 23 “ “ “ “

“ “ Bird/Arveschaug Amendment “ “

Should the state create a rainy day fund?

## Tax and Budgetary Reform Reform

### Legislation

Legislative Staff, Tax and Finance

<file:///F:/University/fall06-4999/Tax%20and%20Finance.htm>

### Suggested Readings

Barry W. Poulson, Supply Side Benefits of Colorado's Flat Tax: Tinkering Could Hurt Revenues and Fairness

<http://www.i2i.org>

Barry W. Poulson, Why Colorado Needs a Permanent Income Tax Cut

[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

Barry W. Poulson Let the Death Tax Die a Natural Death

[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

Barry W. Poulson, The One Size Fits All Approach to Tax Policy in Colorado

[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

Barry W. Poulson Local Tax Competition is Great

[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

Tom Dunn, How Colorado Compares in State and Local Taxes,

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05-01IssueBrief\\_StateLocalTaxes.pdf](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05-01IssueBrief_StateLocalTaxes.pdf)

OSBP, Colorado Permanent Tax Relief Since 1999,

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/govnr\\_dir/ospb/budget.html](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/budget.html)

Geoffrey Segal, Priority Colorado

<http://i2i.org>

Linda Gorman, Amendment 35, Taxing Tobacco Users to Fund Special Interests

<http://i2i.org>

## **Important Links**

State Policy Network Tax Reform

[file:///F:/University/fall06-999/Tax%20and%20Finance\\_files/State%20Policy%20Network%20%20Publications.htm](file:///F:/University/fall06-999/Tax%20and%20Finance_files/State%20Policy%20Network%20%20Publications.htm)

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center

<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy

<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Americans for Prosperity

<http://www.americansforprosperity.org/>

## Suggested Essay Topics

Should the estate tax be modified or repealed?

- “ “ business personal property tax be modified or repealed?
- “ “ homestead exemption “ “ “ “
- “ “ earned income tax credit “ “ “ “
- “ “ child care credit be modified or expanded?
- “ “ low income energy assistance program be modified or expanded?
- “ “ state adopt a uniform sales tax?
- “ “ state replace the income tax with a sales tax?
- “ “ state provide property tax relief?
- “ “ state property tax/rent

Carrie Lips, State and Local Government Retirement Programs: Lessons in Alternatives to Social Security

[http://www.cato.org/pub\\_display.php?pub\\_id=1626](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=1626)

Jennifer Harris, 2001 Survey of State and Local Government Employee Retirement Systems





Office of Economic Development and International Trade  
<http://www.state.co.us/oed/index.cfm>

Property Rights Project  
<http://www.propertyrightsproject.org/>

Center for the American Dream  
[http://www.i2i.org/main/page.php?page\\_id=10](http://www.i2i.org/main/page.php?page_id=10)

Office of Smart Growth,  
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/smartgrowth/index.htm>

Independence Institute, Growth Policy Studies (various papers)  
<http://i2i.org/ResearchAreas/Growth/index.htm>

Bell Policy Center (various papers)  
<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

### **Suggested Essay Topics**

Should Colorado deregulate the telecommunications industry?  
Should local governments offer cable television service, telecommunications service, or high speed internet access?  
Should cities impose growth management planning?  
Should local governments use the power of eminent domain to promote economic development?  
Should local governments use zoning to control economic development?  
Should local governments impose limits on employment growth?  
Should local governments impose taxes and fees to control development?  
Should enterprise zone legislation be modified or repealed

### **Transportation**

#### **Legislation**

Legislative Staff, Government –Transportation  
[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff, Government – Transportation and Energy  
[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

\_\_\_\_\_, Transportation Legislation, 2005  
[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05TransportationandEnergy.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05TransportationandEnergy.htm)

Colorado Senate, Transportation Legislation 2005  
[http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject\\_search=%25trans%25](http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25trans%25)

### **Suggested Readings**

Randal Otoole Great Rail Disasters  
<http://www.i2i.org/articles/1-2004.pdf>

Randall OToole Rail Disasters 2005  
<http://i2i.org>

Colorado Department of Transportation, North Front Range Transportation  
Alternative Feasibility Report.  
<http://www.dot.state.co.us/NFRTAFS/toppage1.htm>

Randal OToole The Mobility Plan for Denver  
<http://i2i.org>

Randall OToole The Full Truth about Fastracks  
<http://i2i.org>

Randall OToole, Why Rail When Bus Works Better  
<http://i2i.org>

### **Important Links**

Governor's Transportation & Alternative Fuels Programs  
<http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/transportation/index.htm>

Independence Institute, Colorado Transportation Center (various papers)  
<http://i2i.org/cad.aspx>

Colorado Department of Transportation  
<http://www.dot.state.co.us/>

State Policy Network  
<http://www.spn.org>

### **Suggested Essay Topics**

Should the state build more toll roads?  
Should the state convert existi

Should the state use peak load pricing on toll roads?  
Should the state rely more heavily on alternative transportation?  
Should the state raise the sales tax on gasoline?  
Should the state privatize RTD?  
Should the state rely on private construction of toll roads?  
Should private toll roads be constructed using eminent domain?

## **Water**

### **Legislation**

Legislative Staff, Government –Water

Independence Institute, Environmental Policy Studies (various papers on water issues)

<http://i2i.org/environment.aspx>

Natural Resources Law Center

<http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/publications/.htm>

### **Suggested Essay Topics**

Should the state plan and implement policies for the interbasin transfer of water?  
Should the state facilitate smaller regional agreements for water transfers and storage?

Should Colorado reclaim water now flowing to out of state users?

Should the state create a claim on water resources for environmental and recreational uses?

### **Resources and the Environment**

#### **Legislation**

Legislative Staff, Government –Renewable Energy

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff, Government –Transportation and Energy

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff, Government –Natural Resources

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff, Natural Resource Legislation 2005

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05NaturalResources.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05NaturalResources.htm)

Amendment 37 Renewable Energy Requirement

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2004/ballot/2004BluebookforInternet.PDF](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2004/ballot/2004BluebookforInternet.PDF)

#### **Suggested Readings**

Barry W. Poulson, Decarbonizing Colorado

[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

Alex Schroeder, The Application and Administration of Inducement Prizes in  
Tecnology

[http://www.i2i.org/articles/IP\\_11\\_2004.pdf](http://www.i2i.org/articles/IP_11_2004.pdf)

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Environmental Division  
(various papers)

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/environ.asp>

Independence Institute, Environmental Policy Studies (various papers)

<http://i2i.org/environment.aspx>

Independence Institute, Technology, Energy and Utilities

<http://i2i.org/teu.aspx>

## **Suggested Essay Topics**

Should the state mandate the use of alternative fuels in autos?

“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ to generate electricity?

Should oil and gas operators be required to compensate for impacts caused by exploration?

Should the state subsidize research in alternative fuel technology?

Should the state privatize state park and recreation areas?

Should the state subsidize energy conservation measures?

Should the state subsidize recycling?

## **III Health, Education, Welfare, Corrections, and Immigration**

### **Education**

#### **Legislation**

Legislative Staff, Government –Education

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff School Finance in Colorado

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff, School Finance in Colorado, Dec. 2005

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/cover.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/cover.htm)

Amendment 39, School District Spending Requirements

<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/570ef8fde282b79d87257168005fe3d7?OpenDocument>

Colorado Senate, Education Legislation 2005

[http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject\\_search=%25school%25](http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25school%25)

Legislative Staff Education Legislation 2005

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05Education.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05Education.htm)

## **Suggested Readings**

\_\_\_\_\_, How Colorado Compares in K-12 Funding  
[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/k-12Funding0100.pdf](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/k-12Funding0100.pdf)

Legislative Staff K-12 Student Assessments  
[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2000/research/00K-12studentassessment.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2000/research/00K-12studentassessment.htm)

Benjamin De Grow, Counting the Cash for Kids  
<http://www.i2i.org>

End Compulsory Schooling  
[http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article\\_id=878](http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=878)

Barry W. Poulson, The Common School Movement in Colorado  
[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

Barry W. Poulson, A Good Deal for Higher Ed Students, and for Taxpayers  
[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

Barry W. Poulson, Solving Colorado's Education Finance Problem  
[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

Barry W. Poulson, Reforming Post Secondary Education in Colorado  
[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

Barry W. Poulson, Reforming Higher Education in Colorado  
[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

## **Important Links**

State Policy Network Education  
<http://www.spn.org/publications>

[http://thebell.org/ed\\_op.html](http://thebell.org/ed_op.html)

Coloradokids, A Call for High School Reform

<http://www.coloradokids.org/PDF%20files/A%20Call%20for%20High%20School%20Reform.pdf>

Independence Institute, Education Policy Center (various papers)

<http://i2i.org/education.aspx>

### **Suggested Essay Topics**

Should school districts be required to allocate 65% of operational expenditures to the classroom?

Should school choice be expanded through voucher?

“ “ “ “ “ “ charter schools?

Should tax credits be expanded for donations and expenditures for private schools

Should the state implement more rigorous testing in the schools?

Should minimum requirements be imposed for high school graduation?

Should the voucher program in higher education be increased and expanded to all post secondary schools?

Should services in education be privatized or contracted out?

Should community colleges be privatized?

### **Health Care**

#### **Legislation**

Legislative Staff, Health Care

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff, Public Health Care Legislation 2005

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05PublicHealth.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05PublicHealth.htm)

Legislative Staff, Health Care Legislation 2005

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthCare.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthCare.htm)

Colorado Senate Health Care Legislation 2005

[http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject\\_search=%25health%25](http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25health%25)



[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthInsurance.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthInsurance.htm)

### **Suggested Readings**

Legislative Staff, Health Care Resource Book 2006

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff, Health Care Resource Book 2005

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthCareResourceBook.pdf](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05HealthCareResourceBook.pdf)

Barry W. Poulson, Privatizing Medicaid in Colorado

[http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author\\_id=90](http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90)

### **Important Links**

State Policy Network Medicaid

<http://www.spn.org/publications>

Bell Policy Center, Colorado Issues Health (various papers)

<http://www.thebell.org/health.html>

Health Care for All Colorado

<http://www.healthcareforallcolorado.org/>

Independence Institute, Center for Health Care Policy (various papers)

<http://i2i.org/healthcarecenter.aspx>

### **Suggested Essay Topics**

Should the state privatize Medicaid

“ “ “ use health savings a

## **Welfare**

### **Legislation**

Legislative Staff, Welfare Legislation 2002

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2002/research/02Welfare.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2002/research/02Welfare.htm)

### **Suggested Readings**

Welfare Reform: Next Steps for Colorado

[http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article\\_id=874](http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=874)

The Urban Institute, Recent Changes in Colorado Welfare and Work, Child Care, and Child Welfare Systems

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff, Corrections

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Legislative Staff, Corrections Legislation 2005

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05Corrections.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05Corrections.htm)

Legislative Staff, Criminal Justice legislation 2005

[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05CriminalJustice.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05CriminalJustice.htm)

### **Suggested Readings**

Getting Smart on Crime: Time to Reform Colorado's Drug Offense Sentencing Policies

<http://www.i2i.org>

Nullifying the Probationary Period

<http://www.i2i.org>

Refining Colorado's Criminal Code

[http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article\\_id=610](http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=610)

Extreme Drug Law Tramples Bill of Rights

[http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article\\_id=663](http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=663)

## Important Links

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition,  
<http://www.ccjrc.org/index.html>

Independence Institute, (Various papers on reforming the criminal justice and penal system)  
<http://www.i2i.org/>

## Suggested Essay Topics

Should the state expand the privatization of prisons?  
Should sentencing laws be modified?  
Should the parole system be modified?  
Should the state offer alternative education and training programs to prisoners and parolees?  
Should the state privatize “ “ “ “ “ “ and parolees ?  
Should drug sentencing laws be changed?  
Should the state eliminate the death penalty?  
Should sentencing laws be linked to age and sex?

## Immigration

### Legislation

Legislative Staff, Immigration in Colorado: State Impact and Recent Legislation  
[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/leg\\_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm)

Referendum #55 Restrictions on Government Services to Illegal Immigrants  
<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/597b2322acb205618725718600795817?OpenDocument>

## Suggested Readings

State and Local Authority to Enforce Immigration Law  
<http://www.cis.org/>

Immigration's Costs and Benefits  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB115100948305787940.html>

Illegal Immigration

<http://www.cis.org/topics/illegalimmigraion.html>

Illegal Aliens Attending Public Institutions of Higher Education

<http://www.i2i.org>

### **Important Links**

Center for Immigration Studies

<http://www.cis.org/>

U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform

<http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/uscir/reports.html>

Heritage Foundation

<http://www.heritage.org>