

McGill University
Department of Economics

ECON406: Topics in Economic Policy Winter 2024

Instructor Contact Information:

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Instructor and TA e-mail policy: Short e-mails that can be answered by a yes or a no are more likely to be answered quickly. Long e-mails or e-mails requiring long responses may or may not be answered. If your question is long or requires a complex answer, please go to see the TA or the professor during office hours.

Prerequisites: ECON 230 or ECON 250 and one of ECON 227, ECON 257.

Course Description: Selected policy issues are investigated using economic theory. By applying intermediate microeconomics principles to selected current policy priorities, students will develop a critical appreciation of the objectives of policy making, understand the economics behind the policies and learn to evaluate the evidence on the impacts. This course will largely consist of several empirical case studies, drawn from Canadian and International policies. After a few lectures on the basics of policy evaluation where we review issues around taxation and targeting, this year's course will cover the economics of the Universal Basic Income and cash transfers, workfare programs, family policies, among others.

Course Evaluations:

Reading Quizzes (5/8) = 10% (2% each) (see schedule on page 2)

Midterm = 40% (February 29th)

Students who miss the midterm for valid medical reasons (medical note not required) will have the opportunity to write the make-up exam, scheduled for March 12th.

Final exam = 50% (Date TBA)

There will be a supplemental examination which will be worth 100% of your final grade.

Exam format: Combination of True/False/Uncertain and explain why, as well as short essay questions evaluating your understanding of the assigned readings and course materials. Final exam is cumulative

My Re-read policy: We understand that mistakes occasionally happen. We do our very best to ensure fair grading and to minimize errors. Nevertheless, if you disagree with the grade you have received in your assessment, you may opt to have it re-read. To request a re-read, you must submit to me (the instructor, not the TA) your assessment with a written justification for the re-read. I will then re-read and reassess the grade. Your grade may go up, down, or stay the same. This written request for re-read must be submitted **within 7 days of receiving the grade**.

Instructional Methods: Class lectures will be held in person and will not be recorded. It is designed in such a way that it is imperative to read the assigned readings on schedule. We will draw on empirical literature published in top peer reviewed journals. We will build on the pre-requisites for the course, including intro to statistical methods (ECON227 or ECON257) and during the first few lectures of the class, we will review some of the key empirical concepts linked to causal inference and experimental research design.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this semester, you will be able to:

- Understand the logic behind different economic policies
- Critically evaluate empirical analysis of the effects of economic policies
- Appreciate the potential unintended consequences of economic policies
- Sharpen skills in knowledge translation from research to policy/practice

Reading Quizzes (Submit only 5, 2% each, total 10% - to be submitted via MyCourses Due at 5pm): Quizzes will be a set of questions related to an assigned paper (indicated with “+” in the reading list and schedule), to be completed *before we discuss the paper in class*. These will be available for 48 hours before the due date. The objective of this evaluation format is to encourage you to do the readings in advance of class and to help call your attention to some of the key contributions of the paper and how they relate to the lecture material. The quizzes are intended to train your ability to interpret results of these papers, as well as to give you the opportunity to give me feedback about what you would like to see explained in more detail about the paper in class. We will review one paper in class before any of the reading quizzes. You do not have to do all 8 – we will only count your 5 highest marks (so effectively, you only need to submit 5)

Reading Quiz	Paper (see reading list for details)	Due date
1	+Van der Walle (1998)	Jan 29 th
2	+Banerjee et al. (2023)	Feb 5 th
3	+Baird et al. (2011)	Feb 12 th
4	+Egger et al. (2022)	Feb 19 th
5	+Zhang (2017)	Mar 11 th
6	+Eissa and Liebman (1996)	Mar 20 th
7	+Almond et al. (2011)	Mar 25 th
8	+Balboni et al. (2020)	Apr 1 st

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

- **Academic Integrity:** “McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#).” (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See McGill’s [guide to academic honesty](#) for more information).
« L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 29 janvier 2003) (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le guide pour l’honnêteté académique de McGill.)
- **A Note about the final exam:** According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations at www.mcgill.ca.
- **Copyright of course materials:** © Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.
- **Language of Instruction:** “In accord with McGill University’s [Charter of Student Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)
« Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

- As the instructor of this course, I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and/or the Office of [Student Accessibility and Achievement](#).
- Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the [McGill Charter of Students' Rights](#)

PRELIMINARY COURSE CALENDAR AND OUTLINE:

Topic	Date	Required Readings
Welcome	Jan 4	
Introduction	Jan 9 Jan 11	Deaton (1997)
1. Basics of program evaluation	Jan 16 Jan 18	Ravallion (2008)
2. Taxation and redistribution	Jan 23 Jan 25	Carbonnier et al. (2022), Moffit (2003)
3. Anti-poverty policies and targeting	Jan 30 Feb 1	Besley and Kanbur (1993), +Van der Walle (1998)
4. Universal basic income / unconditional cash transfers	Feb 6 Feb 8	+Banerjee et al. (2023), Haushofer and Shapiro (2016), Hoynes and Rothstein (2019)
5. Conditional cash transfers	Feb 13 Feb 15	+Baird et al. (2011), Das et al (2005)
6. Unintended effects of cash transfers	Feb 20 Feb 22	+Egger et al. (2022), Angelucci and de Giorgi (2009), Cunha et al. (2019)
Catch-up/Review	Feb 27	
MIDTERM	Feb 29	
MARCH BREAK	Mar 5, 9	
Make-up MIDTERM	Mar 12	Midterm take-up
7. Family Policies	Mar 14 Mar 19	Baker et al. (2019), +Zhang (2017)
8. Negative income taxation, workfare and wage subsidies	Mar 21	+Eissa and Liebman (1996), Ravallion (2019), Koebel et al. (2021)
9. Food subsidies	Mar 26	+Almond et al. (2011), Banerjee et al. (2018)
10. Social Protection	Mar 28 Apr 2	+Balboni et al. (2020), Banerjee et al. (2015)
11. Carbon Taxes	Apr 4 Apr 9	Nordhaus (2007), Timilsina (2022)

- Notes:**
1. Topics might spill over from one week to the next if necessary.
 2. I maintain discretion regarding changes in this outline. Any changes will be discussed in class and/or announced on MyCourses.
+ for reading quiz

Key dates:

- Jan 16th: Add Drop deadline

DETAILED (PRELIMINARY) READING LIST:

There is no required textbook. The reading list below indicates required readings, followed by references I used in the lecture and suggestions for further reading. These are all available either through the McGill Library (so you will need Remote Access if off campus) or freely available online. The reading list below will provide hyperlinks to the articles but in the event the link is broken, a quick browser search of the article title and author should yield what you are looking for.

Background resources: While this course requires you to have completed an intermediate micro-economics and a quantitative/econometrics course, you may find the following resources useful as references.

Micro-economics: Any intermediate micro-economics textbook.

Empirical methods in economics:

Any introductory econometrics textbook.

Angrist, J. D., and J.-S. Pischke 2009. *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*, Princeton University Press (placed on 3 hour reserve at the library)

Cunningham, S. 2021 *Causal Inference: the Mixtape* Yale University Press.

Duflo, E., Glennerster, R. and Kremer, M. 2008. "[Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit](#)," Handbook of Development Economics, Elsevier

Public finance books (placed on 3-hour reserve at the library):

Gruber, J. 2007. *Public Finance and public policy* 2nd ed., New York, NY : Worth Publishers.

Rosen, H.J.,-F. Wen. T Snoddon. 2016. *Public Finance in Canada*, 5th Canadian edition, McGraw Hill Ryerson.

Stiglitz, J. 1988. *Economics of the Public Sector*, 3rd edition. Norton.

Zucman, G. and E. Saez. 2019. [The triumph of injustice: how the rich dodge taxes and how to make them pay](#). Norton.

IntroductionRequired

Deaton, A. 1997. Chapter 3 "Welfare, Poverty and Distribution" in Angus Deaton [The Analysis of Household Surveys: A Microeconomic Approach to Development Policy](#) Washington DC: World Bank.

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

Prasad, N. 2008. "[Policies for redistribution: The use of taxes and social transfers](#)," International Labour Organization (International Institute for Labour Studies) Discussion paper DP/194/2008

Chetty, R. 2015. "[Behavioral Economics and Public Policy: A Pragmatic Perspective](#)" *American Economic Review* Vol. 105 (5): 1-33.

Sen, A. 1979. "[Equality of What?](#)" The Tanner Lecture on Human Values, Stanford University. May 22, 1979.

Topic 1 – Basics of Program EvaluationRequired

Ravallion. M. 2008. "[Evaluating Anti-Poverty Programs](#)" In *Handbook of Development Economics*, Volume 4, Edited by: Schultz, T. P. and Strauss, John. 3787–3846. Amsterdam: North-Holland.

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

Angrist, J., A. Krueger. 2001. "[Instrumental Variables and the Search for Identification: From Supply and Demand to Natural Experiments](#)" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Vol. 15 (4): 69-85.

Bertrand, M, E. Duflo and S. Mullainathan. 2004. "[How Much Should We Trust Differences-In-Differences Estimates?](#)" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 119 (1): 249–275

Topic 2 – Taxation and RedistributionRequired:

Carbonnier, C., C. Malgouyres, L. Py, and C. Urvoy. 2022. "[Who benefits from tax incentives? The heterogeneous wage incidence of a tax credit](#)" *Journal of Public Economics* Vol. 206: 104577

Moffitt, R. 2003. "[The Negative Income Tax and the Evolution of U.S. Welfare Policy](#)" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Vol. 17(3): 119-140

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

Benzarti, Y. and L. Wallossek. 2023. "[Rising Income Tax Complexity](#)" *NBER Working Paper #31944*

Brühlhart, M., J.Gruber, M. Krapf, and K. Schmidheiny. 2022. "[Behavioral Responses to Wealth Taxes: Evidence from Switzerland](#)." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, Vol. 14 (4): 111-50.

Carillo, P., D. Pomeranz, and M. Singhal. 2017. "[Dodging the Taxman: Firm Misreporting and Limits to Tax Enforcement](#)" *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* Vol. 9(2): 144-164. (if policy brief, due Jan 14)

Congdon, W., Kling, J., and Mullainathan, S. 2009. "[Behavioral Economics and Tax Policy](#)." *National Tax Journal*, 62(3): 375-386.

Diamond, P. and E. Saez. 2011. "[The Case for a Progressive Tax: From Basic Research to Policy Recommendations](#)" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Vol. 25(4): 165-190.

Heady, C. 1993. "[Optimal Taxation as a Guide to Tax Policy: A Survey](#)" *Fiscal Studies* Vol. 14(1): 15-41.

Saez, E. 2002. "[Optimal Income Transfer Programs: Intensive versus Extensive Labor Supply Responses](#)" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* Vol. 117 (3): 1039-1073.

Saez, E. and G. Zucman. 2019. "[Progressive Wealth Taxation](#)" *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*.

Saez, E. and G. Zucman. 2023. "[Distributional Tax Analysis in Theory and Practice: Harberger meets Diamond-Mirrlees](#)" *NBER Working Paper #31912*

Slemrod, J. (1990). "[Optimal Taxation and Optimal Tax Systems](#)." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 4(1), 157-178

Topic 3: Antipoverty Policies and Targeting

Required:

Besley, T. and R. Kanbur. 1993. "[The Principles of Targeting](#)" in Lipton, M. and J. van derGaag (eds.) *Including the Poor*, Washington, D.C. The World Bank (linked article is the 1990 working paper)

+Van Der Walle, D. 1998. "[Targeting Revisited](#)" *World Bank Economic Review* Vol. 13(2): 231-48

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

Aizer, A., H. Hoynes, A. Lleras-Muney. 2022. "[Children and the US Social Safety Net: Balancing Disincentives for Adults and Benefits for Children](#)" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Vol. 36(2): 169-174.

Nichols, A. and R. Zeckhauser. 1982. "[Targeting Transfers through Restrictions on Recipients](#)" *American Economic Review* Vol. 72(2): 372-277.

Ravallion, M. 2013. "[The Idea of Anti-Poverty Policy](#)" *NBER Working Paper #19210*

Sen, A. 1992. "[The political Economy of targeting](#)"

Topic 4 – Universal Basic Income / Unconditional Cash Transfers

Required

+Banerjee, A., M. Faye, A. Krueger, P. Niehaus, and T. Suri. 2023. "[Universal Basic Income: Short-Term Results from a Long-Term Experiment in Kenya](#)" Working Paper

Haushofer, J., and Shapiro, J. 2016. "[The Short-Term Impact of Unconditional Cash Transfers to the Poor: Experimental Evidence from Kenya](#)." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131(4), 1973–2042.

Hoynes, H. and J. Rothstein. 2019. "[Universal Basic Income in the United States and Advanced Countries](#)" *Annual Review of Economics* Vol. 11: 929-958.

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

Boadway, R., K. Cuff and K. Koebel. 2018. "[Implementing a Basic Income Guarantee in Canada: Prospects and Problems](#)"

Green, D.,J. Kesselman, and L. Tedds. 2020. "[Considerations for Basic Income as a COVID-19 Response](#)." *The School of Public Policy Publications*, 13 (11), 1-16.

Ozler, B. 2017. "[Fact checking universal basic income: can we transfer our way out of poverty?](#)" *World Bank Development Impact Blog*. Feb 27th, 2017.

Piketty, T. 2016. "[Basic Income or Fair Wage?](#)" *Le Monde Blog*, 13 December 2016.

Ravallion, M. 2017. "[Straw Men in the Debate on Basic Income versus Targeting](#)" *Economics and Poverty Blog* 5 September 2017

Topic 5 – Conditional Cash TransfersRequired

- Das, J., Q-T. Do, and B. Ozler. 2005. "[Reassessing Conditional Cash Transfer Programs](#)" *World Bank Research Observer* Vol. 20(1): 57-80.
- +Baird, S., C. McIntosh, and B. Ozler. 2011. "[Cash or Condition? Evidence from a Cash Transfer Experiment](#)" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* Vol. 126(4): 1709-1753

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

- Barham, T., K Macours, and J. Maluccio. 2018. "[Are Conditional Cash Transfers Fulfilling Their Promise? Schooling, Learning, and Earnings After 10 Years](#)"
- Molina-Millan, T., T. Barham, K. Macours, J. Maluccio, and M. Stampini. 2016. "[Long-Term Impacts of Conditional Cash Transfers in Latin-America: Review of the Evidence](#)" IDB Working Paper Series IDB-WP-732.
- Parker, S and Todd, P. 2017. "[Conditional Cash Transfers: The Case of Progres/Oportunidades](#)", *Journal of Economic Literature*, 55(3): 866-915.
- Parker, S. and T. Vogl. 2018. "[The long-term effects of cash transfers: Mexico's Progres](#)" VoxDev

Topic 6 – Unintended Effects of Cash TransfersRequired

- + Egger, D., J. Haushofer, E. Miguel, P. Niehaus & M., W. Walker. 2022. "[General Equilibrium Effects of Cash Transfers: Experimental Evidence from Kenya](#)" *Econometrica* Vol. 90 (6): 2603-2643
- Angelucci, M. and G. De Giorgi. 2009. "[Indirect Effects of an Aid Program: How Do Cash Transfers Affect Ineligibles' Consumption?](#)" *American Economic Review* Vol. 99(1): 486-508.
- Cunha, J., G. De Giorgi, and S. Jayachandran. 2019. "[The Price Effects of Cash Versus In-Kind Transfers](#)" *Review of Economic Studies* Vol. 86(1): 241-281

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

- Banerjee, A., R. Hanna, G. Kreindler, and B. Olken. 2017. "[Debunking the Stereotype of the Lazy Welfare Recipient: Evidence from Cash Transfer Programs](#)" *World Bank Research Observer* Vol. 32: 155-184
- Bastagli, F. J. Hagen-Zanker, L. Harmin, V. Barca, G. Sturge, T. Schmidt. 2019. "[The Impact of Cash Transfers: A Review of the Evidence from Low- and Middle-income Countries](#)" *Journal of Social Policy* Vol. 48 (3): 569-594
- Bobonis, G. J. 2011. "[The Impact of Conditional Cash Transfers on Marriage and Divorce](#)" *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 59(2), 281-312.
- Cornelius, C., L. Hansel and C. Roth. 2019. "[Income Shocks and Suicides: Causal Evidence From Indonesia](#)" *Review of Economic Statistics* Vol. 101 (5): 905-920.
- Give Well. 2018. "[Spillover Effects of GiveDirectly's Cash Transfers Program](#)" Blog Post
- Handa, S., S. Daidone, A. Peterman, B. Davis, A. Pereira, T. Palermo, J. Yablonski. 2018. "[Myth-Busting? Confronting Six Common Perceptions about Unconditional Cash Transfers as a Poverty Reduction Strategy in Africa](#)" *World Bank Research Observer*, Vol. 33 (2): 259–298
- Ozler, B. 2018. "[Most good you can do. But for whom?](#)" World Bank Development Impact Blog post.

Topic 7 –Family PoliciesRequired

- Baker, M., Gruber, J. and K. Milligan. 2019. "[The Long-Run Impacts of a Universal Child Care Program](#)" *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* Vol 11(3)
- +Zhang, J. 2017. "[The Evolution of China's One-Child Policy and Its Effects on Family Outcomes](#)" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Vol. 31(1): 141-160

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

- Baker, M., Gruber, J. and K. Milligan. 2008. "[Universal Childcare, Maternal Labor Supply, and Family Well-being](#)", *Journal of Political Economy* Vol. 116(4): 709-745.
- Brodeur, A. and M Connolly. 2013. "[Do higher child care subsidies improve parental well-being? Evidence from Quebec's family policies](#)" *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* Vol. 93: 1-16

- Clark, S., C. Kabiru, S. Laszlo, and S. Muthuri. 2019. "[The Impact of Childcare on Poor Urban Women's Economic Empowerment in Africa](#)" *Demography* Vol. 56(4), pages 1247-1272
- Ebenstein, A. 2010. "[The 'Missing Girls' of China and the Unintended Consequences of the One Child Policy](#)" *Journal of Human Resources* Vol. 45 (1): 87-115.
- Milligan, K. 2005. "[Subsidizing the Stork: New Evidence on Tax Incentives and Fertility](#)" *Review of Economics and Statistics* Vol. 87 (3): 539-555.
- Rosenzweig, M. and J. Zhang. 2009. "[Do Population Control Policies Induce More Human Capital Investment? Twins, Birth Weight and China's 'One-Child' Policy](#)" *The Review of Economic Studies*, Volume 76, Issue 3, 1 July 2009, Pages 1149–1174,

Topic 8 – Negative Taxation, Workfare and Wage Subsidies

Required:

- ⁺Eissa, N. and J. Liebman. 1996. "[Labor Supply Response to the Earned Income Tax Credit](#)", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 111: 605-637.
- Ravallion, M. 2019. "[Guaranteed employment or guaranteed income?](#)" *World Development* Vol. 115: 209-221.

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

- Besley, T. and S. Coate. 1992. "[Workfare versus Welfare: Incentive Arguments for Work Requirements in Poverty-Alleviation Programs](#)" *American Economic Review* Vol. 82(1): 249-261.
- de Mel, S., D. McKenzie, and C. Woodruff. 2010. "[Wage Subsidies for Microenterprises.](#)" *American Economic Review* Vol. 100 (2): 614-18.
- Fortin, B., Truchon, M. and L. Beauséjour. 1993. "[On reforming the welfare system: Workfare meets the negative income tax](#)" *Journal of Public Economics* Vol. 51(2): 119-151.
- Kasy, M. 2018 "[Why a Universal Basic Income is Better than Subsidies of Low Wage Work](#)"
- Katz, L. 1996. "[Wage Subsidies for the Disadvantaged](#)" NBER Working Paper #5679
- Koebel, K., D. Pohler, R. Gomez, and A. Mohan. 2021 "[Public Policy in a Time of Crisis: A Framework for Evaluating Canada's COVID-19 Income Support Programs](#)" *Canadian Public Policy* Vol. 47(2): 316-333.
- Kleven, H. 2020. "[The EITC and the Extensive Margin: a Reappraisal](#)" NBER Working Paper #26405.
- Hoynes, H. and A. Patel. 2018. "[Effective Policy for Reducing Poverty and Inequality? The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Distribution of Income](#)" *Journal of Human Resources* Vol. 53(4): 859-890
- McCauliffe, C. and S. McElwee. 2018. "[Moving Beyond the Earned Income Tax Credit](#)" *The Nation*, November 15, 2018

Topic 9 – Food Subsidies

Required:

- ⁺Almond, D., H. Hoynes, and D. Whitmore Schanzenbach. 2011. "[Inside the War on Poverty: The Impact of Food Stamps on Birth Outcomes](#)" *Review of Economics and Statistics* Vol. 93 (2): 387-403.
- Banerjee, A. R. Hema, J. Kyle, B. Olken, and S. Sumarto. 2018. "[Tangible Information and Citizen Empowerment: Identification Cards and Food Subsidy Programs in Indonesia](#)" *Journal of Political Economy* Vol. 126 (2): 451-491

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

- Bailey, M. H. Hoynes, M. Rossin-Slater, and R. Walker. 2020. "[Is the social safety net a long-term investment? Large-scale evidence from the food stamps program](#)" NBER Working Paper #26942
- Kaul, T. 2018. "[Household Responses to Food Subsidies: Evidence from India](#)" *Economic Development and Cultural Change* Vol. 67(1):

Topic 10 – Social Protection

Required:

- ⁺Balboni, C., O. Bandiera, R. Burgess, M. Ghatak, and A. Heil. 2022. "[Why do People Stay Poor?](#)" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* Vol. 137 (2): 785-844

Banerjee, A., E. Duflo, N. Goldberg, D. Karlan, R. Osei, W. Parienté, J. Shapiro, B. Thuysbaert, C. Udry. 2015. "[A multifaceted program causes lasting progress for the very poor: Evidence from six countries](#)" *Science* Vol. 348, Issue 6236.

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

Gentilini, U., et al. 2022. "[Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures](#)". Washington, DC: World Bank.

Topic 11 – Carbon Taxes

Required readings:

Nordhaus, W. 2007. "[Critical Assumptions in the Stern Review on Climate Change](#)" *Science* Vol. 317 (5835): 201-202

Timilsina, G. 2022. "[Carbon Taxes](#)" *Journal of Economic Literature* Vol. 60 (4): 1456-1502.

In case you wanted to learn more, I used these references for my lectures:

Altenburg, T. and D. Rodrik. 2017. "Chapter 1: Green industrial policy: Accelerating structural change towards wealthy green economies" in Altenburg, T., & Assmann, C. (Eds.). [Green Industrial Policy. Concept, Policies, Country Experiences](#). Geneva, Bonn: UN Environment; German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE).

Leach, A. 2009. "[Welfare implications of climate change policy](#)" *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* Vol. 57 (2): 151-161.

Grainger, C. and C. Kolstad. 2010. "[Who Pays a Price on Carbon?](#)" *Environmental and Resource Economics* Vol. 46 (3): 359-376.

Metcalf, G. 2009. "[Tax Policies for Low-Carbon Technologies](#)" NBER Working Paper 15054

Poterba, J. 1991. "[Tax Policy to Combat Global Warming: On Designing a Carbon Tax](#)" NBER Working Paper 3649.

Economics Librarian: Should you have any questions about accessing any of these materials, you should contact the Economics Librarian, Michael David Miller:

- Email: michael.david.miller@mcgill.ca

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.