



**Division of Economic and Financial Studies
Department of Economics**

STUDY GUIDE

ECON853 ECONOMICS OF PUBLIC ISSUES

2003

OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE OF THE UNIT

The aim of this unit is to study the role of economic theory and analysis in informing decision-making on matters of public policy. Appropriate theory and analytical methods will be outlined and discussed, and their use in considering particular issues will be explored. The unit is structured partly around particular theories or methods of importance to the analysis of public policy, and partly around specific policy issues themselves.

The staff member in charge of this unit is Professor David Throsby (Room C5C313, phone extn. 8474). The other staff member involved in the unit is **Dr Sean Turnell** (Room C5C-380, phone extn. 8493).

The unit will comprise 12 three-hour sessions, given on Mondays from 6-9 pm in room C5A-401.

The unit will cover economic aspects of the following 12 topics:

Topic 1	Education
Topic 2	Foreign Student Flows
Topic 3	The Environment
Topic 4	Sustainable Development
Topic 5	Climate Change
Topic 6	Security and Defence
Topic 7	Tourism
Topic 8	Labour Standards and Trade
Topic 9	Financial Institutions
Topic 10	The Voluntary Nonprofit Sector
Topic 11	The Creative Industries
Topic 12	Cultural Heritage

Dates and topics are as follows.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	LECTURER
1	3 March	1. Education	Professor Throsby
2	10 March	2. Foreign students	Professor Throsby
3	17 March	3. Environment	Professor Throsby
4	24 March	4. Sustainable development	Professor Throsby
5	31 March	5. Climate change	Professor Throsby
6	7 April	6. Security and defence	Professor Throsby
7	28 April	7. Tourism	Professor Throsby
8	5 May	8. Labour standards	Dr Turnell
9	12 May	9. Financial institutions	Dr Turnell
10	19 May	10. Nonprofit sector	Professor Throsby
11	26 May	11. Creative industries	Professor Throsby
12	2 June	12. Cultural heritage	Professor Throsby
13	9 June	Public Holiday	

Sessions will begin promptly at 6.05 pm. Generally each session will comprise a mixture of lecture time, progress reviews and class discussion. There will be ample scope for student questions, participation and interaction.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this unit will be on the basis of the three assignments, plus class attendance and participation. **There will be no final exam.**

It is very much in your own interests to attend all lecture sessions in this unit. The nature of the unit is such that the material covered cannot be adequately comprehended simply by reading the references set. Attending to the lecturers' syntheses of the material and participating in class discussion are important components of the learning process.

The weightings used in the assessment process will be:

	Marks
Assignments (30 marks each)	90
Class attendance and participation	10
TOTAL	100

It should be noted that a student who does not achieve a satisfactory mark in the "Class attendance and participation" component of the assessment will be unlikely to be able to obtain a passing grade for this unit.