Overview: This course is intended for Ph.D. students. The course is meant to teach you how to analyze issues in public economics using empirical data and provide a survey of such work in several areas. The goal is that by the end of this course you will be ready to commence doing solid empirical work on any topic that interests you. As a prerequisite, you should be familiar with micro and with econometrics at the graduate level.

Assignments: We will have several types of assignments in the class. You will prepare referee reports on papers each week to get ready for our discussion of them as well as to improve your skills in evaluating empirical work. I will give you some empirical datasets and ask you to do two or three empirical problem sets to simulate the kind of work one might do when actually writing a paper. Both of these types of assignments can be done alone or in study groups of up to four people. The final project in the course will entail a paper that takes a particular policy issue and outlines the basic economic theory and existing literature and outlines a potential research project including what data could be collected, what the source of identifying variation is, and what you would do with it. This should be done on your own.

Logistics: Information and most hand-outs from the course are available on the course website at http://gsbadg.uchicago.edu/405.htm. I will try to e-mail the papers to you so be sure I have your e-mail address. My secretary is Maggie Newman (702-8607). My email is goolsbee@gsb.uchicago.edu if you have questions or would like to make an appointment.

There is no textbook for the course. I will give you reading lists of the articles that we will cover. The first few weeks of the course will outline some of the various ways to analyze the impact of tax policy on the economy in the context of a few important topics. The remaining sessions will then apply this framework to some important issues.

Week 1: Introduction to research & data sources | Standard analysis | Cigarette Taxes

TOOLS AND APPROACHES
Week 2: Identification, Estimating Behavioral Responses, Differential Impacts & Shifting
The Debate over Taxes and Reported Taxable Income
Week 3: Estimating Incidence, Impacts on New Margins, Endogenous Policy
Investment Tax Incentives

ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUES
Week 4: The Earned Income Tax Credit
Week 5: Capital Gains Taxation
Week 6: Portfolio Composition | Corporate Tax Issues
Week 7: Tax Incentives for Savings
Week 8: International/Multinational Taxation
Week 9: Project Presentations