Federal Tax Policy

Course Syllabus

1. Overview of U.S. Income Tax
   (a) Slemrod & Bakija, Taxing Ourselves (4th ed.). Introduction and an Overview of the U.S. Tax System, pp. 1-5

2. Criteria for Evaluating Tax Laws
   (a) Slemrod & Bakija, pp. 56-98 (fairness); 99-158 (economic prosperity); 159-188 (simplicity and enforceability)
   (b) Nozick, Anarchy, State and Utopia, pp. 149-164, 167-174
       Available in the course material
   (c) Notes on Slemrod and Bakija
       Available in the course material
   (d) Slemrod, Does Atlas Shrug?, pp. 3-26, The Economics of Taxing the Rich
       Available in the course material

3. The Concept of Income
   (a) H. Simons, Personal Income Taxation (1938), pp. 41-58 (definition of income); 110-125 (income in kind); 125-147 (gratuitous receipts); 148-169 (capital gains)
       Available in the course material
   (b) Notes and Questions on H. Simons Definition of Income
       Available in the course material

4. Tax Expenditures
       Available in the course material
   (b) Bittker, A Comprehensive Tax Base as a Goal of Income Tax Reform (excerpt) pp. 925-943 and 980-985 [80 Harv. L. Rev. 925 (1967)]
       Available in the course material
5. **Tax All Income or Consumed Income Only?**

Available in the course material

(b) Discussion Problems on Andrews Proposed Consumption Tax
Available in course material

6. **Flat Taxes**

(a) Hall and Rabuska, A Flat Tax (2d ed., 1995), pp. 52-103

(b) Discussion Problems on the Flat Tax; Note, AIs a Consumption Tax Also A Tax Limited to Income From Labor Only?; Note, The Importance of Timing
Available in the course material

7. **Taxation of Capital Gains**

Available online

(b) Halperin, Reply to Cunningham and Schenk, 48 Tax L. Rev. 381 (1993)
Available online

8. **The Estate Tax**

(a) McCaffery, The Uneasy Case for Wealth Transfer Taxation, 104 Yale L.J. 283 (1994)
Available online

(b) Discussion outline for McCaffrey article
Available in the course material

(c) Alstott, A Reply to Professor McCaffery, 51 Tax L. Rev. 363 (1996)
Available online

(d) Discussion outline for Alstott Response.
Available in the course material

Available on-line

9. **Social Security and Retirement Security**

Available online
(b) Discussion problems on social security and medicare
Available in the course material

Available online

10. **International Tax Policy**
   
   Available online

   (b) Discussion problems on Graetz article
   Available in the course material

11. **Integration of Corporate and Individual Income Taxes**

   (a) Report of the Department of the Treasury (1992) (pp. 15-60)
   Available online

   (b) Discussion problems on integration of corporate and individual income.
   Available in the course material

12. **New Reform Proposals**

   (a) Graetz, 100 Million Unnecessary Returns: A Fresh start for the U.S. Tax System, 112, Yale L. J. (2002)
   Available online

   (b) Discussion outline for Graetz article
   Available in the course material