



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2011
Course:	Economics 483 [History of Economic Thought]	Section:	01
Time:	TR 11:00 – 12:15	Place:	SA 145
Instructor:	Dr. Jim Gaisford		
Office:	SS 538 and SS 110	Telephone:	403-220-3157
Office Hours:	TR 15:45 – 16:45 (subject to change) and by appointment	E-mail:	gaisford@ucalgary.ca

Textbooks:

Adam Smith , *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, (Books I – III)
Penguin, 1986 (originally published in 1776). ["Required."]

Robert L. Heilbroner, *The Worldly Philosophers*, 7th Edition, Simon and Schuster, 1999
(Originally published in 1953). ["Required."]

Todd Buchholtz, *New Ideas from Dead Economists*, 2nd Revised Edition, Plume 2007
(Originally published in 1990). ["Required."]

Mark Blaug, *Economic Theory in Retrospect*, 5th Edition, Cambridge University Press, 1997
(Originally published in 1962). [Not required; Special Order.]

Smith's *Wealth of Nations* is a key original treatise. Heilbroner and Buchholtz provide highly-readable introduction to the lives, times and ideas of major economic thinkers. Blaug provides a more detailed and comprehensive treatment of economic ideas *per se*.

Book(s) on Reserve and Course Resources:

While there are no books on reserve for this course, the McMaster University Archive for the History of Economic Thought is a very comprehensive collection of primary sources:

<http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/>

This is a public-access archive for noncommercial, educational purposes such as our course. The Department of Economics at McMaster University and the creator of the Archive, the late Dr. Rod Hay, are thanked for making the site available.

Blackboard:

Students who are registered in this course can log on at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>

Course Outline:

This course examines the lives, times and especially the ideas of important economic thinkers up to the end of the 19th Century. The emphasis will be on the great classical economists: Adam Smith, Thomas Malthus, David Ricardo, John Stuart Mill and Karl Marx. The course will build an understanding the contributions of these economists both in terms of their historical context and their relationship to present day theories and controversies. The course will also involve a first-hand study of the *Wealth of Nations* by Smith.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

All students must comply with the regulations published in the University Calendar concerning "Intellectual Honesty," "Examinations," etc. **STUDENTS MUST WRITE AND PASS THE FINAL EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.** Students who pass the final examination will normally be evaluated according to the following marking scheme:

Final Examination (2.5 Hours)	35
Midterm Examination	15
Class Preparation and Participation	15
Project — Web Presentation and Research Report	<u>35</u>
	100%

Exams, term papers, etc. will be marked on a numerical (percentage) basis and then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, the following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	88-100	B	72-76	C-	56-60
A	84-88	B-	68-72	D+	52-56
A-	80-84	C+	64-68	D	50-52
B+	76-80	C	60-64	F	0-50

1. The final examination will be scheduled by the registrar and held in a classroom. The final will be designed to be written in two hours, but students will be permitted two and one half hours. The FULL COURSE will be covered. Final examinations and deferred final examinations will only be held at the time, date and location set by the registrar. Deferred final examinations will not be given except in situations of extreme personal emergency.
2. The midterm examination will be held during a regular class session. Students will be given at least two weeks notice of the date for the midterm. Deferred midterm tests will not normally be given. Students who are unable to write the midterm because of a illness, family emergency or religious observance will have the midterm weight shifted to the final examination. Documentation MUST be provided.
3. Approximately 15 classes will include a discussion of readings as well as a lecture component. In preparation for these class discussions, students will be required to submit single-page summaries of the assigned readings. Participation in the discussions and, therefore, attendance is also an important element of the course.

4. Students will be required to complete a project consisting of a 15-page web presentation and a 2500-word research report (i.e., 8-10 double-spaced pages). The web presentation will be due by 17:00 on Friday March 25, 2011 and the research report will be due by 17:00 on Friday April 1, 2011. Both the content and the written presentation will enter into the evaluation of both facets of this project. Late web presentations and research reports will not normally be accepted. Web presentations and research reports that do not meet university standards for documentation and/or effective writing will receive a grade of zero. Further information on both parts of the project will be circulated early in the term.

The midterm and final examinations may include various types of short answer questions, short essays, and/or problems. Tests and exams may include some multiple-choice questions. Calculators and other electronic devices WILL NOT be allowed.

Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (midterm, presentation, term paper, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor *within* fifteen days of the work being returned. At the instructor's prerogative, a remedial assignment for partial credit may be requested of students who have attempted a piece of term work without achieving a passing mark. There will be no remedial assignment in relation to the final examination. Good attendance is crucial due to the cumulative nature of the course material and the participation requirement. The course material is cumulative and the readings and lectures are complements rather than substitutes.

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resources Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resources Centre are not eligible for academic accommodation. **You are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.**

Important Contacts:

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic:

Alyssa Stacy
Phone: 403-220-3911
E-mail suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts):

Phone: 403-220-3913 Office: MSC 251
E-mail arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

Society of Undergraduates in Economics (SUE)

E-mail: socuecon@ucalgary.ca
www.ucalgary.ca/sue/

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333
Emergency Assembly Point — Social Sciences Food Court
