

ECON 434: History of Economic Doctrines

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
Spring 2019
MWF 2:30-3:20pm
Gardner 106

Instructor: Aisling Winston
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Course Objective

This course explores the history of economic thought from the Scholastic Era through the Mid-20th Century. This course deals with the content of major economic writers in the context of history with an emphasis on understanding the catalysts of their theories and how their theories informed subsequent economic paradigms. This is not a course on economic history or policy, per se.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to identify the major roots of contemporary economic thought, placing theories in the context of the times within which they were developed. This course covers a substantial amount of material in a short period of time. As a result, students should expect to do a good deal of self-directed reading.

Course Materials

Required Texts

Medema, Stevens G. and Warren J. Samuels. The History of Economic Thought: A Reader (2nd edition). New York, NY: Routledge, 2013.

Recommended Texts

Spiegel, Henry W. The Growth of Economic Thought (3rd edition). Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1991.

Optional Texts

Many of the additional readings can be found online at the McMaster University Archive (<http://socserv2.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/>), through the UNC Library, or other locations online. Please remember that not all transcriptions are accurate and that you should use original sources whenever possible.

You may wish to have hard copies of the following texts (feel free to use other editions):

Smith, Adam. The Wealth of Nations. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1976.

Smith, Adam. The Theory of Moral Sentiments (The Glasgow Edition of the Works and Correspondence of Adam Smith). Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, 1982.

Tucker, Robert C. The Marx-Engels Reader (2nd edition). New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company, 1978.

Course Requirements

This is a rigorous course. Students are expected to put in substantial work outside class, actively participate in class, and actively seek help early if warranted. Students are expected to spend time reading and analyzing the source material, preparing questions and comments in advance to bring to the class discussion.

Grading for the course consists of three components: reading responses (20%), online discussion (10%), three paradigm essays (50%), and a final exam (20%).

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

A	93%-100%	C+	77%-79.9%
A-	90%-92.9%	C	70%-72.9%
B+	87%-89.9%	D+	67%-69.9%
B	83%-86.9%	D	60%-66.9%
B-	80%-82.9%	F	<60%

Reading Responses

Reading responses are designed to guide students through the readings. Due dates for the reading responses will be posted on Sakai, and each will be due before class begins via Sakai. Reading responses are graded on completion and effort. Complete responses that demonstrate effort will receive 3 points. Complete responses that lack obvious effort will receive 2 points. Incomplete responses will receive 1 point. Late responses are not accepted. The lowest two reading response grades will be dropped.

Online Discussion

Online discussion is designed to facilitate the exchange of differing viewpoints and encourage a deeper understanding of the material. It should also provide a means of developing ideas for the paradigm essays. At a minimum, students are required to submit one substantive post per author/topic. Posts will be graded 5 times – once at the end of each of the three paradigms and once at the midway point of the Classical and post-Classical paradigms, the due dates will be announced on Sakai and in class. Students are encouraged to post more than the minimum – to encourage this, students who are active on the online discussion board will be awarded a bonus point per grading period. Online discussion will be graded on completion and effort. Each required post that demonstrates effort will receive 2 points. Posts that lack obvious effort will receive 1 point.

Paradigm Essays

The paradigm essays are designed to encourage students to think thoughtfully about how the study economics has evolved over time. These essays should be more than mere summaries of the ideas presented in each topic; they should be considered reactions to the material, placing it within the context of the time and the previous paradigms of economic thought. Paradigm essays should consider authors within the context of the time period during which they wrote.

There will be three paradigm essays over the course of the class: one for Pre-Classical thought, one for Classical thought, and one for Post-Classical thought. The first essay should be 5-7 pages long. The remaining two essays should be 9-11 pages long. All essays should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins and 11-point font. Pages should be numbered, and last names should appear in the header of each page. The first page must include the full name and PID. Papers should follow any commonly accepted manual of style (such as MLA or APA) for in-text citations and works cited pages.

Paradigm essays are due in class one week after the conclusion of the topic.

Final Exam

The final exam will be held Tuesday, May 7 at 8am. Students will have 3 hours to complete the exam.

Students who are unable to attend the final exam during its scheduled date and time must provide to the instructor an official exam excuse from the Dean. Only those students who receive and submit to the instructor an official exam excuse will be allowed to make up the final exam.

Attendance and Class Participation

Students who are not willing to regularly attend lectures should drop the class. The course covers a substantial amount of material in a short period of time, the understanding of which is greatly increased by discussion. Students should not expect to regularly miss class and still do well in the course as a whole. The instructor will not cover lecture material during office hours for students who were absent and did not demonstrate concerted efforts to obtain notes and understand the material on their own. Students are responsible for any missed announcements.

Students who anticipate missing at least three consecutive classes due to extenuating circumstances should notify the instructor and the Dean of Students immediately.

Class participation is an essential component of learning, especially for the topics covered in this course. Students are encouraged to ask and answer questions during class. Students are expected to behave in this discussion with respect toward their peers and instructor.

Academic Accommodation

If a student requires assistance or academic accommodation, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor in person or by email in advance. For accommodations during the final exam, students must have established their eligibility through Accessibility Resources.

Electronics Policy

Students are expected to arrive to class on time with their phones silenced. Students who choose to use their laptops to take notes should keep in mind that this can be distracting to other students and should take pains to sit in locations such that they do not distract their classmates (e.g. the back or sides of the room). Students should not browse the internet, instant message, play games, etc. during class time. Students who exhibit a pattern of this behavior will be asked to discontinue computer use during class.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to adhere to the University Honor Code: <https://studentconduct.unc.edu/>.

Students may use their notes and texts to complete essays, and students are encouraged to discuss their topics with classmates; however, essays must be unique. Students are encouraged to use texts beyond required readings, especially primary sources, though they may also use secondary sources. All referenced sources **MUST** be cited using a commonly accepted manual of style (such as MLA or APA).