

# Syllabus

## History of Economic Doctrines

Economics 7600-001

Fall 2017

3 Semester Hours

Class: MW 3:00-4:30

Instructor: John Watkins

Office Hours: TTH 2:00-3:00 pm or by appointment

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### **Course Description:**

The reason to study the history of economic thought is best found in the observation that “the past reveals to the present what the present is capable of seeing, and that the face which to one age is a blank may to another be pregnant with meaning” (R.H. Tawney, *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*, p. 3). This course covers the great themes within the history of economic thought: the source of wealth and poverty, the nature of progress, value theory, the nature of society and the role of the individual, markets and how they function, the role of government, the concept of property, and the importance of non-market economic institutions. These issues are best explored by studying the classic works within economics.

### **Course Objectives:**

The objectives of this course are first, to help students to learn to think critically. Thinking critically involves various skills: the ability to reason from assumptions to implications, the ability to consider the validity of the various ideas and theories based on the different methodologies, and the ability to critique those ideas. Economic ideas originate in an effort to solve practical problems. The meaning of ideas lies in understanding the purpose for which they are used. Understanding requires placing them in their historical context. The meaning of economic ideas is inextricably bound up with the underlying milieu.

A second purpose is to introduce students to the ideas of some of the great economic thinkers. The underlying theme for this course is the different analyses of capitalism. More specifically, we are interested in the various factors involved in the accumulation of capital. The accumulation of capital is the most significant determinant of wealth and

poverty. Accumulation in turn involves questions regarding the nature of the economic process, the methodology employed, the distribution of income, and perspectives regarding the future of the capitalist system. With regard to the future of capitalism, the pressing problem besides income distribution is whether capitalism is compatible with the viability of the environment. If not, how can capitalism be made compatible?

A final purpose lies in resolving the seemingly mistaken prognoses regarding the impending collapse of the capitalist system by so many economists of both the right and left. This prompts the question regarding why capitalism has survived? Why were T.R. Malthus, D. Ricardo, K. Marx, S. Jevons, and J.A. Schumpeter, F. Hayek and others wrong about capitalism's impending doom? Or do current trends portend the fulfillment of their prophecies?

### **Required Texts:**

Commons, John Rogers. *Legal Foundations of Capitalism*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press 1957.

Keynes, John Maynard. *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money*. New York: Harbinger, [1936] 1964.

Marx, Karl. *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy: The Process of Production of Capital*. Vol. 1, Edited by Frederick Engels. Moscow: Progress Publishers 1959.

Marshall, Alfred. *Principles of Economics*. 8th ed. London: MacMillan Press 1890.

North, Douglass C. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge, Mass: Cambridge University Press 1990.

Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation*. New York: Rinehart 1944

Schumpeter, Joseph Alois. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. New York, London,: Harper & Brothers 1942.

\*Smith, Adam. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, Edited by Edwin Cannan. New York: The Modern Library, [1776] 1937.

Tawney, R. H. *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith 1926.

Veblen, Thorstein. *The Theory of the Leisure Class; an Economic Study in the Evolution of Institutions*. New York, London: The Macmillan Company 1899.

\*With regard to *The Wealth of Nations*, get the modern library edition. Avoid abridged editions.

<b>Topic Areas</b>	<b>*Readings</b>	<b>Week of</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>Schumpeter, Joseph Alois. "The Sociology of Economics." In <i>History of Economic Analysis</i>, 33-47. New York,: Oxford University Press, 1954.</p> <p>Popper, Karl. "Science: Conjectures and Refutations." In <i>Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge</i>, 33-64. New York: Harper &amp; Row, 1963.</p> <p>Friedman, Milton. "The Methodology of Positive Economics." In <i>Essays in Positive Economics</i>, 3-43. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953.</p> <p>Nabers, Lawrence. "The Genetic and Positive Approaches." In <i>The Structure of Economic Science</i>, edited by S. R. Krupp. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1976.</p> <p>Kuhn, Thomas. <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. 2d Ed.</i> Chicago: University of Chicago Press 1970.</p> <p>McCloskey, Deirdre N. <i>The Rhetoric of Economics</i>. 2nd ed. Rhetoric of the Human Sciences. Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press 1998.</p> <p>Feyerabend, Paul. <i>Against Method</i>. London: Verso 1988.</p>	Aug 21, 23
<b>Origins of Capitalism Mercantilist Economic Thought Physiocrats</b>	<p>R.H. Tawney, <i>Religion and the Rise of Capitalism</i></p> <p>B. Mandeville, <i>Fable of the Bees</i>;</p>	Aug 28, 30
<b>Classical Economists: Smith,</b>	A. Smith, <i>Wealth of Nations</i>	Sept 4, 6

<b>Classical Economics: Malthus, and Ricardo, Mill Utilitarianism, Bentham</b>	T.R. Malthus, D. Ricardo, and J.S. Mill	Sept 11, 13
<b>Karl Polanyi</b>	K. Polanyi, <i>The Great Transformation</i>	Sept 18, 20
<b>Karl Marx</b>	K. Marx, <i>Capital</i> vol. 1	Sept 25, 27
<b>Karl Marx</b>	K. Marx, <i>Capital</i> vol. 1	Oct 2
<b>Midterm</b>		Oct 4
<b>Fall Break</b>		Oct 9, 11
<b>Marginalist Revolution</b>	A. Marshall, <i>Principles of Economics</i>	Oct 16. 18
<b>Old Institutional Economics</b>	T. Veblen, <i>Theory of the Leisure Class</i>	Oct 23, 25
<b>Old Institutional Economics Continued</b>	John R. Commons, <i>The Legal Foundations of Capitalism</i>	Oct 30, Nov 1
<b>New Institutional Economics</b>	Douglas North, <i>Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance</i>	Nov 6, 8
<b>J.A. Schumpeter</b>	J.A. Schumpeter, <i>Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy</i>	Nov. 13, 15
<b>Austrian Economics</b>	F.A. Hayek	Nov 20, 22
<b>John Maynard Keynes</b>	J.M. Keynes, <i>The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money</i>	Nov 27, 29
<b>Reflections and Summation</b>		Dec 4, 6
<b>Final</b>		Dec 11

\*Readings may be changed

### **Course Requirements:**

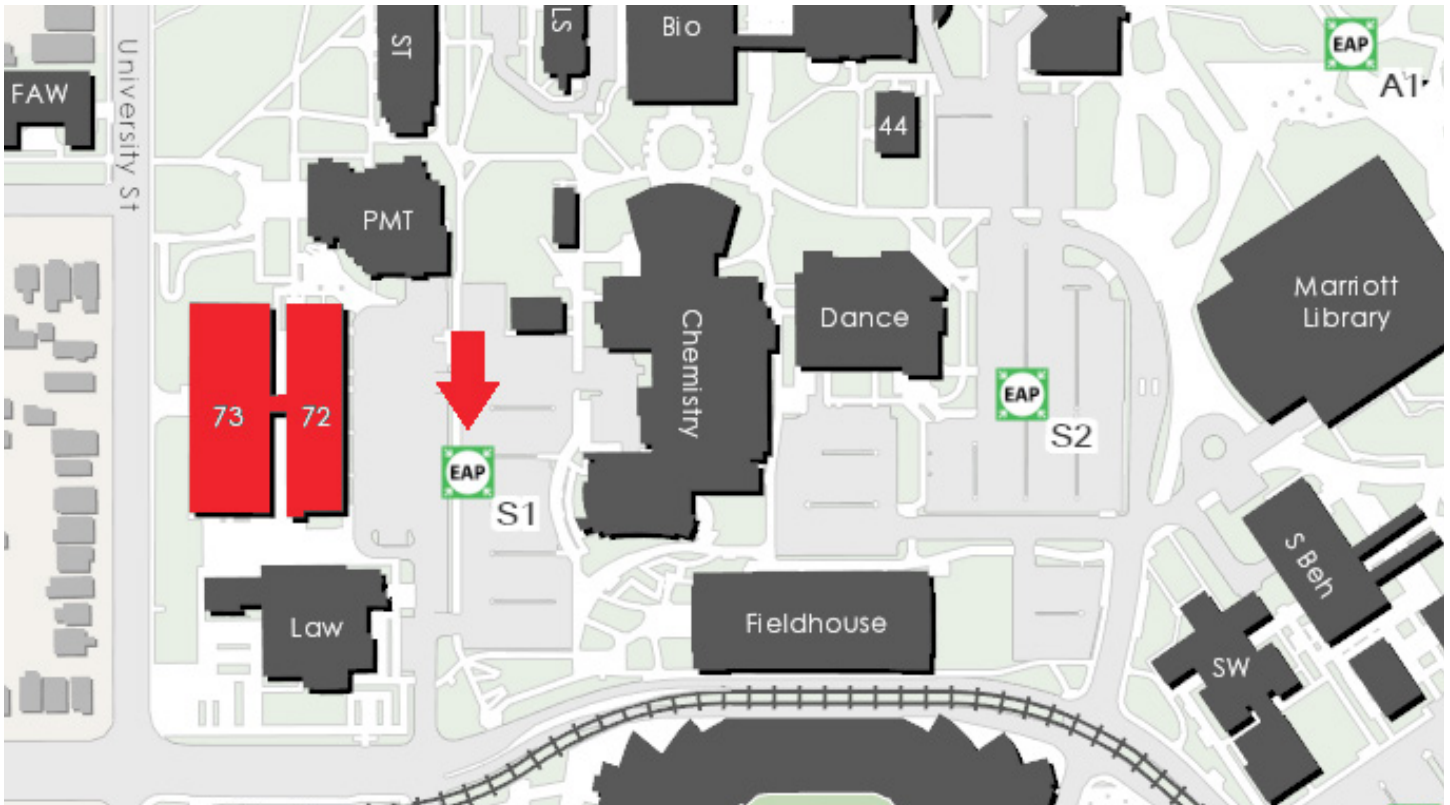
1. Class participation. Besides coming to class, class participation includes questions or comments for each reading to share with each other in class, online, and a brief written summation of the class discussion. (20 percent of your grade)
2. Two power-point presentations on one aspect of two different readings. (See me for guidance.) One presentation should be completed before fall break. (20 percent of your grade)
3. One brief paper (4-5 pages) reacting to one of the readings. (10 percent of your grade)
4. One midterm comprising 10% of your grade. Midterm date: Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.
5. A term paper comprising 20% of your grade expanding on a theorist, idea, or institution.
  - Theme of the paper should be approved by the instructor.

- Term paper due: Nov 27.
6. One final exam completed in class comprising 20% of your grade. Final exam questions will be handed out Dec. 4. Final exam: Dec. 11.

**Notes:**

- This syllabus is subject to change.
- Plagiarism--involving the copying of someone else's words or ideas without acknowledgment--is unacceptable, resulting in a course grade of F.
- I encourage different opinions, points of view, and discussion bounded only by civility and mutual respect.

# CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



## BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.



## CAMPUS RESOURCES

**U Heads Up App:** There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at [alert.utah.edu/headsup](http://alert.utah.edu/headsup) to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

**Safety Escorts:** For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call **801-585-2677**. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.