
Prerequisites: ECON 2120, ECON 2130

Format: Seminar

Grading: The student will be graded on the basis of his/her performance on a Project (25%), Quizzes (10%), an Oral Final Exam (25%), Class Assignments (20%), and Class Participation (20%). Class attendance is required.

Objective(s): The development of critical thinking skills is the dominant goal of this course. A recent report prepared by the Committee on Graduate Education in Economics found that insufficient emphasis is placed on the development of problem-solving skills, creativity, applications, and writing. They also found a lack of linkages among theory, mathematics, and real world problems. It is my belief that the ability to reason and to think analytically and critically is the principal determinant of success, regardless of the decision to pursue a career or graduate education. All elements (lectures, assignments, participation, oral and written exams) will focus on the development of the ability to make economic arguments, and to think critically.

The decision to place critical thinking at the fore implies a subordinate role for the actual history of economic thought. Time devoted to this development comes at the cost of additional topics. It is unlikely that any of you will continue on to do graduate work in the study of the History of Economic Thought. Therefore, I think this sacrifice worthwhile.

The combination of course material (History of Economic Thought) and course method (critical thinking) is uniquely suited to the goals of the University's Senior Synthesis requirement. By studying the evolution of the discipline the student is exposed to an overall view of the field and a broad array of applications. By emphasizing comparisons between the different stages of the evolution, critical or liberal thinking skills are honed. Finally, my approach to the study of the History of Economic Thought is relativistic. I make a deliberate effort to embed economics within a broad social, political, and cultural framework, which is itself a goal of the CORE.

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Schedule:

Week 1
04/02: Course Overview
04/04: Mercantilism—Brue, Chapter 2

Week 2
04/09: PreClassical Thought—Brue, Chapter 4
04/11: Smith—Brue, Chapter 5

Week 3
04/16: Malthus—Brue, Chapter 6
04/18: Ricardo—Brue, Chapter 7

Week 4
04/23: Classical School—Brue, Chapter 8
04/25: Classical School continued

Week 5
04/30: Marx—Brue, Chapter 10
05/02: Marginalism—Brue, Chapters 12-14

Week 6
05/07: Marginalism—Brue, Chapters 12-14
05/09: Marshall—Brue, Chapter 15

Week 7
05/14: Neoclassical Macro, Chapter 16
05/16: Neoclassical Micro, Chapter 17

Week 8
05/21: Walras—Brue, Chapter 18
05/23: Welfare Theory—Brue, Chapter 20

Week 9
05/28: Marginalism/Welfare/Method
05/30: Rawls/Nozick

Week 10
06/04: Keynes—Brue, Chapter 21 & 22
06/06: Growth—Brue, Chapter 23

Final Exam: Tuesday, 06/11/2019, 4:00 – 5:50pm

*Note: The probability that we will actually follow this schedule is nearly zero.
### FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE — 19SQ

All final examinations must be given during the final exam week.

**Final Exam Dates:**
- Tuesday, June 11, 2019
- Wednesday, June 12, 2019
- Thursday, June 13, 2019
- Friday, June 14, 2019
- Saturday, June 15, 2019

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<th>LECTURE STARTING TIME</th>
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