

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
Albers School of Business & Economics

ECON 4800
History of Economic Thought
Admin 321, 3:45 – 5:50pm, T/Th

Dean Peterson
Spring Quarter, 2022

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Office Hours: TBD

Text:

The Evolution of Economic Thought, (6th edition), by Stanley Brue.

Prerequisites:

ECON 2110, ECON 2130

Format:

Lecture/Discussion

Grading:

The student will be graded on the basis of their performance on an Oral Final Exam (30%), Class Assignments (30%), a Course Project (30%) Class Participation (10%). 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.

Disabilities

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an ‘invisible disability’ such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.

Academic Honesty

I expect that you will abide by the University’s Academic Honesty Code. “Seattle University is committed to the principle that academic honesty and integrity are important values in the education process and that violations in the area should be dealt with in the appropriate manner.” (Undergraduate Bulletin)

If you are not sure whether your particular action is acceptable according to the Academic Honesty Code, you should check with me before engaging it.

University Mission

Seattle University is dedicated to educating the whole person, to professional formation, to empowering leaders for a just and humane world.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. This prohibition includes sexual misconduct, which encompasses sexual harassment and sexual violence. Seattle U remains committed to providing a safe and equitable learning, living, and working environment. Seattle U offers emergency, medical, and other support resources, as well as assistance with safety and support measures, to community members who have experienced or been impacted by sexual misconduct.

Seattle U requires all faculty and staff to notify the University’s Title IX Coordinator if they become aware of any incident of sexual misconduct experienced by a student.

For more information, please visit <https://www.seattleu.edu/equity/>. If you have any questions or concerns, you may also directly contact the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Equity (email: oi@seattleu.edu; phone: 206.296.2824)