

## Economics 351: Political Economy

Fall 2010

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Class Hours: MW 2:30-3:45  
Office hours: MW 4:00-5:00  
Class: KJ 124

### Course Objective:

This course will attempt to understand the relationship between the economic system and its institutions to the rest of the society and social development. This course will critically evaluate the economic thoughts of some of the great economic thinkers such as Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Thorstein Veblen, John Maynard Keynes and Jon Kenneth Galbraith. The influence of the non-economic factors like political, social, cultural institutions, ethics, morality and ideology on the economy will be studied in this course.

### Text:

Charles Sackrey, Geoffrey Schneider and Janet Knoedler (eds.) *Introduction to Political Economy*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Dollars and Sense Publication.

Some relevant articles will be circulated in class in due time.

### Grading:

Midterm I and II: 50% (25% each)  
Final Exam: 35%  
Homework: 15%

### Class Policies:

Exams: There will be two mid-term exams, one in October and one in November. The final exam will be cumulative. There will be a take-home part of each exam, the questions will be distributed 48 hours prior to the in-class exam. It will be due electronically 48 hours after the in-class exam. Taking all three exams is mandatory for all students. There will be no make-up exam, unless there is a scheduling conflict, for which you have to notify me at least one week prior to the exam.

Homework: Each week, you will receive a homework on every Monday. It will be due on the following Monday. There will be no homework due on the exam weeks. All homework must be submitted on time. Late submission is not allowed except once. You can make use of the late-coupon for late submission only once during the semester. In case of an emergency, you can submit the homework on Wednesday, i.e., within 48 hours of the actual submission time (Mondays until 12 noon). You **MUST** properly attach the late-coupon to your homework. Please remember, once you use up your late-

coupon, you have to submit all your homework on time, for the rest of the semester. Therefore please be wise in using the late-coupon. You cannot use the late-coupon for any other assignment.

Other Policies: I encourage you to regularly stay in touch with me to discuss readings, lectures and assignments. If you cannot come to my office hour, feel free to email me with your queries and to set up an appointment.

Students who feel that they need an accommodation because of a disability (learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological, physical etc.) should see me no later than September 6.

Some relevant articles will be circulated in class in due time, and you will be required to read them thoroughly. You should expect questions from them, in the assignments.

Preliminary Course Outline:

Please note, that this is a preliminary outline, and is subject to change with prior notice.

Time	Topic
Aug 30, Sep 1, 6	<p><b>The Political Economy Challenge to Mainstream Economics</b></p> <p>Readings: Intro to Political Economy (IPE) Ch. 1 Dierdre McCloskey (1998), "The Literary Character of Economic Science", <i>from</i> The Rhetoric of Economics, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, University of Wisconsin Press, Ch. 2</p>
Sep 8, 13	<p><b>Thinking Like an Economist</b></p> <p>Readings: Steven Marglin (2008), "Economics, the Market, and Community", <i>from</i> The Dismal Science: How Thinking Like an Economist Undermines Community, Harvard University Press, Ch. 1 Steven Marglin (2008), "What is Community? And Is It Worth the Cost?", <i>from</i> The Dismal Science: How Thinking Like an Economist Undermines Community, Harvard University Press, Ch. 2</p> <p><b>Homework # 1</b></p>
Sep 15, 20, 22	<p><b>Adam Smith and Laissez-Faire Economics</b></p> <p>Readings: Intro to Political Economy (IPE) Ch. 2</p>

	<p>Ha-Joon Chang (2008), “The Lexus and the Olive Tree Revisited: Myths and Facts about Globalization”, <i>from</i> Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism, Bloomsbury Press, Ch.1</p> <p>Ha-Joon Chang (2008), “The Double Life of Daniel Defoe: How did Rich Countries Become Rich?”, <i>from</i> Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism, Bloomsbury Press, Ch. 2</p> <p><b>Homework # 2</b> <b>Homework # 3</b></p>
Sep 27, 29	<p><b>Contradiction of Capitalism: Karl Marx</b></p> <p>Readings: Intro to Political Economy (IPE) Ch. 3</p> <p><b>Homework # 4</b></p>
Oct 4	<b>Review, Take-Home part of Mid-term I to be distributed</b>
Oct 6	<b>In-class Mid-term I</b>
Oct 11, 13	<p><b>Consumption and Predatory Contemporary Capitalism: Thorstein Veblen</b></p> <p>Readings: Intro to Political Economy (IPE) Ch. 4 Schor, Juliet (200), “The Visible Lifestyle: American Symbol of Status”, <i>from</i> The Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don’t Need, Harper Perennial, Ch 3. Schor, Juliet (1999), “When Spending Becomes You”, <i>from</i> The Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don’t Need, Harper Perennial, Ch 4.</p> <p><b>Homework # 5</b> <b>Take-home part of Mid-term I is due on Oct 8 at 12 noon.</b></p>
Oct 18, 20	<p><b>The Public-Private Debate: John Maynard Keynes</b></p> <p>Readings: Intro to Political Economy (IPE) Ch. 5</p> <p><b>Homework # 6</b></p>
Oct 25	<p><b>Documentary:</b> Inside the Meltdown, PBS Frontline.</p> <p><b>Homework # 7</b></p>
Oct 27, Nov 1, 3	<b>Social Class in American Capitalism</b>

	<p>Readings: Intro to Political Economy (IPE) Ch. 6 <b>Documentary:</b> Capitalism Hits the Fan - Richard Wolff on Economic Meltdown, Media Education Foundation.</p> <p><b>Homework # 8</b></p>
Nov 8	<b>Review, Take-Home part of Mid-term II to be distributed</b>
Nov 10	<b>In-class Mid-term II</b>
Nov 15, 17, 29	<p><b>Social Balance – the Public-Private Debate Revisited</b> Readings: Intro to Political Economy (IPE) Ch. 7 David Harvey (2005), “Freedom’s Just Another Word...”, <i>from A Brief History of Neoliberalism</i>, Oxford University Press, Ch. 1 David Harvey (2005), “The Neoliberal State”, <i>from A Brief History of Neoliberalism</i>, Oxford University Press, Ch. 3</p> <p><b>Homework # 9</b> <b>Homework # 10</b> <b>Take-home part of Mid-term II is due on Nov 12 at 12 noon.</b></p>
Dec 1, 6	<p><b>Monopoly Capitalism</b> Readings: Intro to Political Economy (IPE) Ch. 8 TBA</p>

## Late Coupon

Homework # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that,

- a) I am no longer eligible for credit for any subsequent late submission of my homework, after this one.
- b) The late privilege does not apply to assignments turned in more than 48 hours past their due date and time.
- c) This coupon cannot be used for quizzes, country projects or exams.
- d) This coupon is nontransferable, I cannot use anyone else's unused coupon to avail this privilege of late submission.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_