

Foundations of Economic Ideas

Economics 110

Section: D100

Term: 2010 Fall

Instructor: L.A. Boland

Discussion Topics:

Introduction to the lives, times and ideas of the great economic thinkers. Emphasis will be on the vision of the economy introduced by Adam Smith in the 18th century and refined by the neoclassical writers of the 19th century. Consideration will be given to the major changes in our conception of the economy that have been based on the contributions of Marx, Marshall, Walras, Veblen and Keynes.

The format of this class is unusual and challenging. It will appeal to those students who are willing and able to participate in classroom discussions. There are no formal lectures provided. This is a class for students more interested in learning than just achieving an acceptable grade. If the budget allows, every other week, on average, students will be assigned a short written paper (about the assigned readings) and each student's paper will be critically examined and graded.

The class will meet three hours per week. In addition to the biweekly essay assignments, there will be at least one midterm exam and an in-class final exam based on the assigned readings and the in-class discussions over the semester. With the latter in mind, classroom attendance will be very important. This is a class which cannot be passed by merely showing up for the final exam. Surprise quizzes to encourage attendance are always possible. Grades will be based on the written assignments, exams, quizzes and above all, contributions to classroom discussions.

Attendance

at first class of the semester is considered mandatory!

Grading:

Required Texts:

Heilbroner, *The Worldly Philosophers*, Simon & Shuster, 7th ed., 1999
Plato, *Euthyphro*, *The Apology* and *Crito* (early dialogues), Penguin, 2003
Voltaire, *Candide*, Penguin, 1947
Becker, *The Heavenly City of the Eighteenth-Century Philosophers*, Press, 2nd ed.
Capek, *R.U.R.*, a play, Dover Publishing, 2001
Ibsen, *Four Great Plays by Ibsen*, Bantam, 1981
Lu Xun, two short stories

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Shaw,
Major Barbara, a play

More information available at my
web page:
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or I can be reached by e-mail me at boland@sfu.ca

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Students with credit in Econ 100 cannot take ECON 110
for further credit.
Breadth-Social Sciences

Notes:

**** NO TUTORIALS
DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES ****

Students requiring
accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students
with Disabilities at 778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca
All students are expected to read and understand SFUs
policies with regard to academic dishonesty (S 10.02 and S 10.03). These policies are
available at the following
web addresses: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/files/Students/S10.02.pdf>
and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/files/Students/S10.03.pdf>

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