

Foundations of Economic Ideas

Economics 110

Section: E100

Term: 2009 Spring

Instructor: Prof. 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.

Grading: 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!

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*

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

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.

Foundations of Economic Ideas

All students are expected to read and understand SFU's policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.