ECON 4381 (001), Spring 2009 (3 hrs) Professor Simon Fass
TR 1:00 - 2:15 pm (SOM 2.903) Office: WSTC 1.220
Office hours: TR: 11-12:30; W: 5-6:30; and by appointment tel: 972 883 2938
e-mail: WebCT for course purposes, or fass@utdallas.edu when WebCT is not available

History of Economic Ideas

This course traces the progression of Western economic ideas from the distant past to the present day, in particular the period since the mid-18th century. It looks at relationships among important thinkers and at the ideas they proposed - in incessantly changing technological, social and political circumstances - to help make sense of society’s patterns of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.

The course begins with a look at early ideas based on the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle and their rediscovery in scholastic writings of the medieval period. It then focuses on significant thinkers of a broadly-defined "classical" period from the 17th century to around 1870. Notable here are concepts introduced by Adam Smith, Thomas Malthus, David Ricardo, John Stuart Mill and Karl Marx concerning growth, population, value-price, wages, profits, rents, trade, monetary theory, and governance.

Moving along, our attention shifts to "neo-classical" (or marginal revolutionist) ideas about such things as demand, welfare and imperfect competition put forward from 1870 to the 1960s by a string of remarkable individuals, including Alfred Marshall, Thorsten Veblen and John Maynard Keynes. Rounding out the course is an exploration of approaches that emerged from the 1930s onward, i.e., "modern" movements, including mathematization and behavioral explanation.

Learning Outcomes:
Students will:
❖ acquire an understanding of the origins and progress of economic ideas over time;
❖ be conversant with key contributions to the evolution of economic analysis and controversies that have accompanied them;
❖ be able to analyze and explain why ideas and methods in use today are what they are; and
❖ better appreciate connections between old and new economic ideas and policy prescriptions.

Pre-requisite:
None, though familiarity with basic micro- and macro-economic concepts is helpful.

Required Texts:
Three books, listed below, are required for the course. There will be additional assigned readings as the course moves along.


The Worldly Philosophers, Robert L. Heilbroner (7th edition), Simon and Schuster, 1999 [RH]
Grades:
Grades are based on two mid-term quizzes, a research project that requires preparation and formal presentation of a brief biographical sketch, and a final examination, weighted as follows:

- mid-term quiz #1 (20%);
- mid-term quiz #2 (30%);
- preparation and formal presentation of biographical sketch (20%); and
- final examination (30%).

The grade structure is:

- A+ (4.00);
- A (4.00);
- A- (3.67);
- B+ (3.33);
- B (3.00);
- B- (2.67);
- C+ (2.33);
- C (2.00);
- C- (1.67);
- D+ (1.33);
- D (1.00);
- D- (0.67); and
- F (0.00).  

Resources:
There are many useful Internet resources available to assist study of and research on economists and their ideas. Among the more notable of these resources are the following:

Archive for the History of Economic Thought at McMaster University
http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/~econ/ugem/3ll3/index.html

Akamac E-text_Links (Akama Michio's database at Ehime University)
http://www.cpm.l.ehime-u.ac.jp/Akamac HomePage/Akamac E-text_Links/Akamac E-text_Links.html

The History of Economic Thought Website at The New School
http://cepa.newschool.edu/het/index.htm

The History of Economics Society
http://historyofeconomics.org/

The Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economics/

The Library of Economics and Liberty
http://www.econlib.org

WebEc: Virtual Library of Economics: Methodology and History of Economic Thought page
http://www.helsinki.fi/WebEc/webecb.html

Marxist Internet Archive
http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
http://plato.stanford.edu/
CLASS SCHEDULE

1: January 13, 15: **INTRODUCTION**
   - RB  Prologue
   - TB I. Introduction: The Plight of the Economist
   - RH I. Introduction

2: January 20, 22: **PRE-CLASSICAL 1**
   - RB 1. The Ancient World
   - RB 2. The Middle Ages

3: January 27, 29: **PRE-CLASSICAL 2**
   - RB 3. The Emergence of the Modern World View--the Sixteenth Century
   - RB 5. Absolutism and Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century France
   - RH II. The Economic Revolution

4: February 3, 15: **CLASSICAL 1**
   - RB 6. The Scottish Enlightenment of the Eighteenth Century
   - RB 7. Classical Political Economy, 1790-1870
   - RH III. The Wonderful World of Adam Smith
   - TB II. The Second Coming of Adam Smith

5: February 10, 12: **CLASSICAL 2**
   - RH IV. The Gloomy Presentiments of Parson Malthus and David Ricardo
   - TB III. Malthus: Prophet of Doom and Population Boom
   - TB IV. David Ricardo and the Cry for Free Trade

6: February 17, 19: **CLASSICAL 3**
   - RH V. The Dreams of the Utopian Socialists
   - TB V. The Stormy Mind of John Stuart Mill

7: February 24, 26: **CLASSICAL PINK**
   - RH VI. The Inexorable System of Karl Marx
   - TB VI. The Angry Oracle Called Karl Marx

8: March 3, 5: **NEO-CLASSICAL 1**
   - RH VII. The Victorian World and the Underworld of Economics
   - TB VII. Alfred Marshall and the Marginalist Mind
   - RB 8. The Split between History and Theory in Europe, 1870-1914

9: March 10, 12: **NEO-CLASSICAL 2**
   - RH VIII. The Savage Society of Thorstein Veblen
   - TB VIII. Old and New Institutionalists

March 17, 19:
10: March 24, 26: **NEO-CLASSICAL 3**
   RH IX. The Heresies of John Maynard Keynes
   RB 10. Money and the Business Cycle, 1898-1939
   TB IX. Keynes: Bon Vivant as Savior
   RH X. The Contradictions of Joseph Schumpeter

11: March 31, April 2: **MATHEMATIZATION**
    MIDTERM QUIZ #2 on 03/31
   RB 11. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, 1930 to the Present

12: April 7, 9: **SUBMISSION AND PRESENTATION OF STUDENT PROJECTS**

13: April 14, 16: **MODERN MOVEMENTS 1**
   RB 12. Welfare Economics and Socialism, 1870 to the Present
   RB 13. Economists and Policy, 1939 to the Present
   TB X. Milton Friedman and the Monetarist Battle Against Keynes
   TB XI. The Public Choice School: Politics as a Business

14: April 21, 23: **MODERN MOVEMENTS 2**
   RB 14. Expanding the Discipline, 1960 to the Present
   TB XII. The Wild World of Rational Expectations and Behavioral Economics

15: April 28, 30: **QUO VADIS ECO?**
   RB. Epilogue: Economists and Their History
   RH XI. The End of the Worldly Philosophy?
   TB XIII. Dark Clouds, Silver Linings

May 7: **FINAL EXAMINATION**

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**ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES**

**Class Decorum:** no cell phones on or text messaging; no notebook computers on

**Make-up Exams:** none

**Extra Credit:** none

**Class Attendance:** not obligatory…but note that taking a quiz in absentia is tough

**Citizenship:** civility and politeness during class are much appreciated

**Student Conduct and Discipline:**
The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university’s Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).
A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents’ Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

**Academic Integrity:**
The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one’s own work or material that is not one’s own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university’s policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

**E-mail Use:**
The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student’s U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

**Withdrawal from Class:**
The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

**Student Grievance Procedures:**
Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university’s Handbook of Operating Procedures. In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called “the respondent”). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent’s School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean’s decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the deal will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. Results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

**Incomplete Grades:**
As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester’s end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.
**Disability Services:**
The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is: The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22, P.O. Box 830688, Richardson, Texas 75083-0688, (972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student’s responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

**Religious Holy Days:**
The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment. If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

**Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities**
Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at: http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm

Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

*The descriptions and timelines above are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.*