

## ECN 204: HISTORY OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT

### I. COURSE INFORMATION

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Instructor:	Luca V.A. Colombo
Instructor's Email	lcolombo@fus.edu
Office Hours:	We. 14:00 – 16:00; 18:45 – 20:45; and by appointment
Class location	Kaletsch Campus Bldg., Classroom 5
Class meeting times	We. 10:00-12:45

### II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This intermediate-level course studies the evolution of economic ideas from the early Eighteenth century to modern times, with emphasis on the differing conceptions of economic life and the methodological underpinnings of three main strands of thought: Classical economics, the Marginalist revolution, and the Keynesian revolution. Discussion is organized around four main themes: the source of wealth, the theory of value, the economic growth in the capitalist system, and the notion of equilibrium in economic analysis.

### III. RATIONALE

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This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the origin, evolution, and implications of key economic concepts, stressing their relationships with the philosophical debate and the historical events following one another since the early Eighteenth century.

### IV. COURSE GOALS

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The course aims at providing a systematic conceptual framework to investigate the development of economic ideas, in their intersections with philosophy and the political and historical evolution of societies, hence highlighting the nature of economics as a social science. At the same time, the course stresses the methodological features (in terms of a rigorous and formalized language) peculiar to the economic reasoning.

### V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: understand the way economic ideas develop in their relationships with the specific problems faced by a society, given the philosophical paradigm, and the political and social conditions, characterizing a society in a given historical period; appreciate the complex interdisciplinary inner nature of economics and understand the origin of the economic problem, as well as the different ways in which it can be formalized and investigated.

## **VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

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Ingrid H. Rima, *Development of Economic Analysis*, Routledge, last edition.  
Supplementary readings will be provided during the semester. The instructor's class notes will also be an essential reference for the entire course.

## **VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

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The final grade is determined based on three components: (i) class participation, a term paper, and a class presentation; (ii) a midterm exam; (iii) a final exam.

## **VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

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The final exam will include all the material covered during the course. Instructions about the length and the characteristics of the paper and of the presentation will be given in due time. The weights of each component in the computation of the final grade are the following:

Class participation, term paper and presentation	30%
Midterm examination	30%
Final examination	40%

## **IX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

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At the end of the semester, a student's total points will be translated into the final grade as determined by the following grading scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F (plus/minus when applicable).

## **X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)**

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Attendance is essential to perform well in the course. Absences may lower the course grade. Announcements that are made during lectures will carry the full force of assignments and instructions contained in this syllabus. New material introduced in lectures will be covered in subsequent exams. Students are responsible for any missed information. Extended absences may result in the student being dropped from the class roll.

Absences from exams and delays in handing in homeworks will only be excused if due to student's illness or family emergency. In the case a student can anticipate that she (he) will miss an exam, she (he) is required to make every effort to notify the instructor in advance of the exam to be missed by phone, email, or with a message to reception. In case of a severe emergency that precludes advance notice, this contact must be made as soon as possible after the absence. A condition of illness or serious family emergency forcing a student to miss an exam needs to be formally certified. No exceptions will be made. Make-up examinations will normally be given during the final exam week.

## **XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

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A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with

the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

See the Academic Catalog for full statement (page 215):

[https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS\\_ACADEMIC\\_CATALOG\\_2016\\_2018\\_web.pdf](https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS_ACADEMIC_CATALOG_2016_2018_web.pdf)

## **XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

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*Writing and Learning Center:* For all writing and learning support issues (time management, study skills, preparing for exams, reading and presentation skills, and all steps of the writing process from brainstorming a paper to outlining, editing to proofreading) schedule an appointment with a tutor by going to the website [wlc.setmore.com](http://wlc.setmore.com). Drop-in assistance 10am-5pm (Fridays only 10am-3pm). Tutors can give you individual one-one-one support in all of these areas. For further inquiries, contact Ann Gardiner, WLC Director ([agardiner@fus.edu](mailto:agardiner@fus.edu)) or Olivia Della Croce, WLC Assistant Director ([odellacroce@fus.edu](mailto:odellacroce@fus.edu)).

*Honors Society:* This offers an added opportunity for students seeking to pursue their academic interests. The program is especially suitable for students contemplating graduate study after Franklin. Contact Professor Marcus Pyka ([mpyka@fus.edu](mailto:mpyka@fus.edu)), LAC 12.

### XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

	SUBJECT	READING ASSIGNMENTS
JAN. 23	The Emergence of Economics as a Science Mercantilism. The acquisition of Wealth through trade	1 2
JAN. 30	Physiocracy. Land as the source of wealth Quesnay. The Tableau Économique	4
FEB. 6	Proposals for reforms: The theory of value before Adam Smith Adam Smith: The Wealth of Nations. Division of Labor as the source of wealth; The labor command theory of value	3 5
FEB. 13	Adam Smith: The theory of distribution; The argument for economic liberty	5
FEB. 20	Malthus's predictions on population and food The theory of rent: T.Malthus and D.Ricardo	6 7
FEB. 27	David Ricardo: The theory of exchange value; The theory of distribution and the idea of Technological Unemployment	7
MAR. 3	The key points of the classical theory and the critics of classicism <i>Review Session</i>	9
MAR. 3	Mid-term Exam	-
MAR. 27	Karl Marx: The labor theory of value; Surplus value as the source of profit and the "Law of Motion" of capitalism; Capital accumulation and capitalist crisis	10 11
APR. 3	Forerunners of Marginalism Cournot and W.S Jevons: marginal utility and market equilibrium Marginal analysis. The decision to work Leon Walras: General Equilibrium	12
APR. 17	Neoclassical Monetary Theory and Business Cycle Theories. R. Hawtrey and F. Hayek Theories of Innovation. J. Schumpeter and G. Cassel The savings-investment controversy	17
APR. 24	John Maynard Keynes: The less than full employment equilibrium, the theory of interest rates and the principle of aggregate effective demand <i>Papers presentations</i>	20

MAY 1	John Maynard Keynes: The theory of employment, output and income, monetary Theory and the generality of Keynes's theory <i>Papers presentations</i> <i>Papers due</i>	20
MAY 8	Final Exam (11:00 – 13:00)	