OVERVIEW

At the dawn of the 21st century, more and more people realize that ‘economics’ and ‘politics’ are intimately related. And yet, these two aspects of social existence are usually studied as separate ‘disciplines,’ each with its own categories, language and theories. Can this departmentalization be overcome? Should it? And if so, how?

The seminar deals with these questions by critically examining major themes of political economy. Topics are divided into two major categories: elements and aggregates. In the first part, the seminar examines the origins and implications of concepts such as supply and demand, equilibrium, utility and productivity, market organization, and the role of power. Part two, focusing on aggregates, covers the issues of national accounting, theories of prosperity and crisis, money and finance, economic policy, stagflation, welfare/warfare, and the global formations of trade, capital flows and currency regimes.

Throughout the seminar, the emphasis is not only on the ‘how,’ but also on the ‘why.’ Where have the concepts and theories come from? Why have they risen to prominence and what brought them down? Who benefited from them and who paid the price? Do they help us understand the world, or do they serve to conceal it? In these explorations, special emphasis is put on methodology, as well as the importance of empirical/historical analysis.

EVALUATION

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SCHEDULE

I. Elements

1. Jan 9    Political Economy: An Overview
2. Jan 16   The Trinity: Demand, Supply and Equilibrium
3. Jan 23   Utility and Productivity: The Quantity of Quality
4. Jan 30   Market Organization: Ideal Types
5. Feb 6    Prices or Profit?
6. Feb 13   No class –Reading Week]
7. Feb 20   Power: The End of ‘Economics’?

II. Aggregates

8. Mar 5    Prosperity or Crisis?
9. Mar 12   Money and Finance
10. Mar 19  Economic Policy
12. Apr 2   Across Boarders: Well Being or Power?

REQUIRED TEXTS


USEFUL TEXTS

Electronic version (Creative Commons): [http://www.wallstreetthebook.com](http://www.wallstreetthebook.com)  

**OUTLINE AND READINGS**

(*) Indicates a more demanding reading.

1. **Political Economy: An Overview**

2. **The Trinity: Supply, Demand, Equilibrium**

   **Introductory Readings**
   
   
   **Required Readings**
   
   
   

**Recommended Readings**


**3. Utility and Productivity: The Quantity of Quality**

**Introductory Readings**


**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Book V: General Relations of Demand, Supply and Value, pp. 269-417.


4. Market Organization: Ideal Types

Introductory Readings


Required Readings


5. Prices or Profit?

Introductory Readings


Required Readings


Recommended Readings


6. Power: the End of ‘Economics’?

Introductory Readings

Required Readings

Recommended Readings


**Required Readings**


Recommended Readings


Hicks, John. 1940. The Valuation of the Social Income. *Economica* 7 (2, May): 105-140. (eResources)


8. Prosperity or Crisis?

*Introductory Readings*


*Required Readings*


*Recommended Readings*


Hicks, John R. 1937. Mr. Keynes and the “Classics”; A Suggested Interpretation. *Econometrica* 5 (2, April): 147-159. (eResources)


9. Money and Finance

Introductory Readings

Required Readings

Recommended Readings


### 10. Economic Policy

**Introductory**

Watch Fritz Lang’s 1926 *Metropolis* on the policy ‘dilemmas’ of the 1920s.

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


11a. Welfare, Warfare, or Profitfare?

Introductory Readings

Shaw, Bernard. 1941. Major Barbara. New York: Dodd Mead. [nowhere to run from the war profiteers]

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


11b. Stagflation: the End of Macroeconomics?

Introductory Readings

Required Readings


OR:


Recommended Readings


12. Across Borders: Well-Being or Power?

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


## Assessment for Term Papers

**Student Name:**

**Paper Title:**

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### Comments:

- A+ (90-100) Exceptional
- A (85-89) Excellent
- A- (80-84) High
- B+ (75-79) Highly Satisfactory
- B (70-74) Satisfactory
- C (60-69) Conditional
- F (0-59) Failure