

History and Philosophy of Economics: From David Ricardo to Amartya Sen

Econ 319/Phil 363

Spring Term 2015

Instructor: Tyler DesRoches

Location: CHEM-D200

Time: 12.00-12.50 M, W, F

Instructor's Office: Buchanan E 163

Instructor's Office Hours: W: 14:30-16:30 or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Shampa Bhattacharjee

Teaching Assistant's Office Hours: F: 13:15-14:15, Brock Hall Annex 0155

Please direct all e-mail to Shampa: shampaisi@gmail.com

Course Description

This course will trace the development of economic thought from David Ricardo until present, with a focus on the conceptual and methodological foundations of economics, the problems of value, distribution, and economic growth. We will also read John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, William Stanley Jevons, John Maynard Keynes, F.A. Hayek, Milton Friedman, and Amartya Sen (plus, a bonus scholar! Julian Reiss).

Required Texts (Available at the UBC Bookstore)

Henry W. Spiegel, The Growth of Economic Thought

David Ricardo, On the Principles of Political Economy

Course Packet of Primary Sources (CP)

Free Online Readings (Links posted on **Connect**)

Grading

Group Presentations	10
Mid-Term on Ricardo	10
Proposal for Research Paper	5
Research Paper	35
Final Exam	<u>40</u>
	100%

Group Presentations

Beginning on Friday, January 23 (and every Friday until April 10 – except for January 30, February 20, February 27, and April 3) there will be two group presentations that are designed to test your basic understanding of the readings and to get you to think

about the readings with the help of your peers. This is also a great opportunity for students to hone their presentation skills. Two small groups of students (approx. 5 people each) will each give short (**approx. 15 minutes**) presentations to the class. After each presentation, the groups will field questions from the audience (**approx. 10 minutes**). We will form groups during the second week of January when students are randomly assigned to answer a specific question. Students will then naturally form a group with the other students who have been assigned the same question. Group presentations do not have to be over the top but they must be clear and concise. There is flexibility in terms of the content that groups can choose to include in their presentation; however, students must keep in mind that the ultimate objective of the presentation is to answer the question at hand. Every member of each group should contribute to the group's presentation in some way, shape, or form. However, the specific role that each member is responsible for will be determined by the group members themselves.

Group presentations are worth 10% of your final grade. Every member of each group who participates in the presentation will receive the same grade based on the overall quality of the presentation and the Q&A that follows afterwards. This grade will only be worth 75% of each student's grade, however. The other 25% of your grade will be determined by the members of your group.

Only if notified *in advance* will it be possible to accommodate missed presentations. Students who do not participate in a group presentation will receive a grade of zero.

Proposal and Research Paper

In the last class of the term, on April 10, you are to turn in a 2,000 word original research paper that is worth 35% of your final grade (**late essays will be penalized 10% per day**). In mid-February, I will give students a hand-out that explains what is required for the research paper and the proposal. The proposal is due Monday, March 9 and is worth 5% of your total grade).

Final Exam

During the last class of the term, students will receive a preview for the final exam. Please note that you will not be allowed to make-up the final exam without a documented, University-sanctioned excuse.

Classroom Etiquette

For some students laptops, tablets and smart phones can be useful tools for the classroom. However, others find such devices distracting. They can easily take away from the social environment naturally generated by a classroom setting. While the use of laptops is not prohibited in this class, it should be kept to a minimum. Students should only use laptops for genuine classroom activities, such as taking notes, and not for updating their Facebook status, etc. If you choose to use a laptop in class I recommend that you sit in the back row so that your screen does not distract students sitting behind you.

Attendance

There is no official requirement that you attend class. However, it is difficult to do well unless you attend regularly. *Attending class on Fridays is particularly important because this is the day that your peers give their group presentations.* The success of every presentation depends on a fully engaged and interactive audience. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Please contact another student enrolled in the course or the TA.

In general, I expect students to be consistently well prepared for class by having read (and thought about) the material. *These readings cannot to be passively consumed.* I welcome and expect questions and challenges in class. I also hope that students will drop by my office frequently to discuss what we're doing or just to say "hello" and let me know how the course is going. If you are unable to come to my office hours, please feel free to set up an appointment. You are also encouraged to discuss any problems you may have with the teaching of the course.

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate your educational opportunities.

Caveat

This syllabus may be changed by the instructor at any time. If any problems arise that might potentially jeopardize your performance in the course, you must try to inform me of the problem at the next available office hour or speak to me after class. ***Please note that cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will result in an "F" for the course.*** If you have any questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please contact me. The University's definition of plagiarism, along with excellent resources for avoiding it, can be found at: <http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/plagiarism/>

<u>Week</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignment/ Evaluation</u>
Jan. 5, 7, 9	Preliminaries and Ricardo	Ricardo, Ch. 1 (omit pp. 52-66); Spiegel Ch. 14	
Jan. 12, 14, 16	Ricardo	Ricardo, Chs. 2-5	
Jan. 19, 21, 23	Ricardo	Ricardo, Chs. 6-7; Chs. 30-31; Spiegel Ch. 15	First Group Presentations, Friday, Jan. 23
Jan. 26, 28, 30	Mill	Spiegel Ch. 16 Methodology CONNECT	Mid-Term on Ricardo, Jan. 30
Feb. 2, 4, 6	Mill	Principles CONNECT	Second Group Presentations, Friday, Feb. 6
Feb. 9, 11, 13	Marx Feb. 9 is Family Day: No Class	Marx, Chs. 32-36, CP Spiegel Ch. 19	Third Group Presentations, Friday, Feb. 13
Feb. 16, 18, 20	Reading Week: No Classes		
Feb. 23, 25, 27	Marx	Marx, Chs. 37-43, CP Spiegel Chs. 20-21	
Mar. 2, 4, 6	Jevons	Jevons, Ch. 1-3, CONNECT Spiegel Ch. 22	Fourth Group Presentations, Friday, Mar. 6
Mar. 9, 11, 13	Jevons	Jevons, Chs. 4-8, CONNECT Spiegel Ch. 24	Outline for the Research Paper Due, Mar. 9; Fifth Group Presentations, Friday, Mar. 13
Mar. 16, 18, 20	Keynes	Keynes, Chs. 1-2, 7 CONNECT Spiegel Ch. 25	Outline Returned, Mar. 16; Sixth Group Presentations, Friday, Mar. 20
Mar. 23, 25, 27	Keynes and Hayek	Keynes, Chs. 22, 24 Hayek CONNECT Spiegel Ch. 23, 26	Seventh Group Presentations, Friday, Mar. 27
Mar. 30; Apr. 1, 3	Friedman and Sen Apr. 3 is Good Friday: No Class	Friedman CP Sen CONNECT Spiegel Ch. 27	
Apr. 6, 8, 10	Reiss Apr. 6 is Easter Monday: No Class	Reiss CONNECT	Eighth Group Presentations, Friday, April 10; Research Paper Due; Exam Preview Distributed, Apr. 10

Final Exam – April 2015 – Date: TBA