

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
SPRING 2004

## History of Economic Thought (Econ 4171) Syllabus

**Meeting time:** TTh 12:45-2:00

**Room:** Blegen 145

**Instructor:** Adam Galambos, 1171 Heller Hall, 625-0511, galambos@econ.umn.edu

**Office hours:** Monday 9:30am–10:30am and Thursday 10:15am–11:15am

**Class homepage:** <http://www.econ.umn.edu/galambos/4171/>

### Course description

What began as the study of “estate management” by Greek philosophers 2400 years ago, has become a discipline rich with schools of thought, theories, and models. Every historical era presented its own set of economic phenomena. In this course, we will learn about how thinkers of different time periods reacted to these phenomena. We will learn about the questions they asked, and the different theories and models they proposed as answers.

### Readings

The required textbook for this course is *The Ordinary Business of Life* by Roger E. Backhouse. In addition, from time to time I will assign readings available on the internet.

### Expectations

The basic expectation is that you learn about the topics covered, and hopefully about some particular topic you find most interesting. You will be asked to choose three short works from a list (to be handed out) and write a brief review on each. Your understanding of the rest of the material will be surveyed by about ten 5-minute quizzes (see below) and three short essays (see below). There will be a final exam consisting of “short answer” questions and one or two brief essays. Prior to the final exam, you will be given the list of questions from which the final exam questions will be chosen.

### Grading

The essays will be worth 45 points, the final exam 20 points, the quizzes 20 points, and your written feedback on others’ essays 15 points. Your final grade will depend on your total score, based on:

92-100	A
90-91	A-
88-89	B+
82-87	B
80-81	B-
78-79	C+
72-77	C
70-71	C-
68-69	D+
62-67	D
60-61	D-
0-59	F

## Quizzes

The quizzes will involve explaining some key concepts from the readings.

**Rules:** Quizzes will be announced in advance in class (and on the webpage) and will be administered in the first 5-10 minutes of the class. Quizzes may be taken before the announced date if arrangements were made in this regard at least two days in advance between the instructor and the student. Quizzes may be taken after the announced date only if some unforeseen and exceptional circumstances prevent the student from coming to class.

## Homework Essays

- For each essay you will choose a short reading from a list (to be handed out).
- You may work with fellow students on the essays, but you must compose and write your essay yourself. On this and related issues, please see the CLA guidelines on scholastic dishonesty.
- Essays must be typed (double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12pt font size, about five pages) and handed in at the beginning of lecture on the due date. Essays turned in after that time but still on the due date carry a deduction of 20% of the maximum score, essays turned in to the department main office (1035 Heller Hall) on the day after the due date carry a deduction of 50% of the maximum score, and essays will not be accepted thereafter.
- Each essay will be handed in first as a draft (worth 5 points), and then in its final version (worth 10 points). You will be assigned a partner who will review your draft in class and give you suggestions, and whose draft you will similarly evaluate (worth 5 points). You will need to email your review to your partner and to me by the end of the day after the day of class.

I hope you will enjoy the class, and please contact me with any questions or concerns.