Purpose

The purpose of this course is twofold. First, we want to examine different ways in which economists of the past saw and interpreted the social reality surrounding them. Second, we want to discover the origins, and study the evolution, of those analytical concepts that constitute the body of modern economics. This course is to stress the contemporary relevance of much thought of the past, and to gain a historical perspective on much of the thought of the present.

Home Works and Exams

Students will be asked to hand in short essays every other week based on the assigned readings. In-class discussion is encouraged and every student is required to make at least two (2) presentations in this semester.

There will be one in-class mid-term exam and a final exam. The Mid-term exam will be held approximately on the 9th week of the semester, and final exam would be held on Jan. 12, 2010.

Required Textbooks

1. 許永河，《生産、分配與資本累積的政治經濟學--馬克斯『資本論』的研究》，台北：指南出版社，2009年。

Other Recommended References


10. Marx, Karl, *Theories of Surplus Values*, 3 volumes, New York: Progress Publisher


**Course outline:**

**I. Introduction** : Development of Economic Analysis: An Overview

**Readings:**

1. Brue and Grant, Ch. 1.
2. Landreth and Colander, Ch. 1.

**II. Pre-Classic Economic Theories**

1. Mercantilism
2. Physiocracy

**Readings:**

1. Brue and Grant, Chs. 2 & 3.
2. Rima, Chs. 3 & 4.
3. Landreth and Colander, Chs. 2 & 3.
4. Canterbery, Ch.1.

**III. The Classicists**

1. Overview
2. Adam Smith
3. Thomas Malthus & J.B. Says
4. David Ricardo
5. Conclusion of Classicism

**Readings:**
1. Brue and Grant, Chs. 4-7.
2. Rima, Chs. 5-7.
3. Landreth and Colander, Chs. 4-6.

IV. Karl Marx and His Theory of Capital

Outline of Discussion

1. The Essential Features of Capitalist Production and Marxist Analysis: Capitalist vs. non-capitalist production
2. The Basic Concepts of Marxist Economic Theory
   - Commodities and Classes
   - Marx’s Labor theory of Value
   - Labor and Surplus Value
   - The Transformation Problem: Value, Prices and Realization of Value in Exchange
3. Marx’s Analysis of Capitalism
   - Capitalist Competition for the Appropriation of Surplus Value
   - Some Fundamental Tendencies of Capitalist Growth
   - Alienation and The Reserve Army of Unemployed
   - Accumulation and Crises
4. Conclusion

A. Required Readings for Marxian Economics:
1. Marx, Capital, vol. I
2. Brue and Grant, Ch. 10.
3. Rima, Ch. 10.
4. Landreth and Colander, Ch. 7.
5. Canterbery, Ch. 6.

B. Supplemental Readings


V. The Institutionalist's Vision of Capitalism

To be discussed if time allowed.
1. Overview
2. Thorstein Veblen
3. John Kenneth Galbraith
4. Robert Hilbroner
5. Conclusion

Readings:
1. Brue and Grant, Ch. 19.
2. Landreath, Ch. 12 & 13.
3. Canterbery, Ch. 14.
5. Rima, Ch. 18.