

## **Economics 235 - Economics and Values Spring 2001**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. — Fulton 110  
Father Joseph Fahey, S.J. - Carney 144 (ext. 3696 and 8200)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:30-1100; Thursdays, 3:00-400  
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The purpose of the course will be an analysis, from an economic and a moral perspective, of certain policy issues, with an emphasis on issues from the 2000 presidential campaign and the current session of Congress: taxes and the distribution of income; welfare; Social Security; and health insurance.

Students will be expected to submit a one-page, double-spaced, summary of each required reading. These summaries will be due up to a day before the class at which the reading will be discussed. They will constitute 30% of the grade. The quality of the writing, as well as content, will be considered.

Class participation will constitute 10% of the grade; two exams, a mid-term and a final, 40%; and a paper of about 8-10 pages will constitute 20% of the grade. The topic of the paper must be approved by the teacher.

The following readings are required. In addition, there will probably be additional readings, on health insurance and as issues develop in the Congress. These readings will total no more than the equivalent of 100 pages of journal articles.

Arthur M. Okun, Equality and Efficiency, The Big Tradeoff, chapters 3 and 4.

Isabel V. Sawhill "Still the Land of Opportunity?" The Public Interest, Spring, 1999, pp. 3-17.

Anne Marie Cammisa, From Rhetoric to Reform?

Robert Rector, "Not So Poor," National Review, October 25, 1997, pp. 28, 30.

Brian T. Kennedy, "The Welfare Paradise," National Review, November 24, 1997, pp. 30, 32.

Mary Jo Bain, "Poverty, Welfare, and the Role of Churches," America, December 4, 1999, pp. 8-11.

Douglas J. Bersharov and Peter Germanis, Welfare Reform — Four Years Later, and Amy Sherman, The Lessons of W-2, The Public Interest, Summer 2000, pp. 17-48.

Joseph F. Quinn, "Social Security Reform: Marginal or Fundamental Change?" Journal of the American Society of CLU and ChFC, July, 1997, pp. 44-53.

Jonathan Chait, "Security Risk," The New Republic, January 18, 1999, pp. 22-25.

John Geanakoplos, "Does Bush Understand His Social Security Plan?" The New Republic, October 23, 2000, pp. 18-20.

Barry Bluestone, Alan Blinder, and Amity Shlaes, "American Pie: What to Do with the \$2.9 Trillion Surplus," The New Republic, August 9, 1999, pp. 23-29.

Bruce Bartlett and James K. Galbraith, "Death, Wealth, and Taxes," The Burden of Wealth, and "A Reply," The Public Interest, Fall 2000, pp. 55-77.

James R. Repetti, "The Case for the Estate and Gift Tax," New York University Tax Policy Workshop, on [www.tax.org/workshop/NYU](http://www.tax.org/workshop/NYU).

Paul E. Peterson, "A Liberal Case for Vouchers," The New Republic, October 4, 1999, pp. 29-30.

Mark Gerson, "The Right Choice for Schools," The Public Interest, Spring 2000, pp. 121-124.