Boston College
Department of Economics

Ec. 233 History of Economic Thought

Professor Francis M. McLaughlin
Office: Room 480M, 21 Campanella Way
Class Time: MWF at 12 noon.
Class Room: Campion 302
Office Hours: MWF 3-4 p.m.

READINGS: Course reading assignments are on Blackboard Vista.

GRADING: Grades will be based on a comprehensive final exam and on two preliminary exams. The final exam will count for 50 percent of the total examination score. The first hour examination will count for 10 percent and the second for 40 percent. Exams will be based on the material covered in class and on the readings. Make-ups will not be given, except at the request of the Dean, and only when the absence is for serious reason. According to the academic regulations published in the A&S catalog students are expected to attend class regularly, take tests, and submit papers and other works at the times specified in the course syllabus. Students who are absent on the day of a previously announced test are not entitled, as a matter of right, to make up what was missed, and professors may include as part of the semester's grades, marks for the quality and quantity of students' participation in class.

The following statement on academic integrity is excerpted from a letter sent by the A&S Dean: Among the least enjoyable aspects of our jobs is dealing with violations of academic integrity. We have noted an increased number of these cases over time, with most involving internet sources. Please discuss academic integrity with your students on the first day of class and clarify your expectations in the context of your course and your assignments. Some issues may be ambiguous unless addressed; e.g., are students permitted (or encouraged?) to work together on homework assignments? Plagiarism can sometimes be murky on writing assignments unless you have been clear about the appropriate extent of referencing and footnoting, especially with web sources. I urge you to place the following link directly on your syllabus, and to ask your students to read the section on our academic integrity policy:

(http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy/#integrity.)

Suspected violations of academic integrity must be reported to the appropriate A&S class dean and will be adjudicated by the Academic Integrity Committee of the College.

COURSE CALENDAR:

Jan. 19 Aristotle, Ethics, Bk V, Chs 2 through 5 Blackboard Vista: Ethics


Jan. 31 Hour Examination


Feb. 4 Mun, Thomas, England’s Treasure Blackboard Vista: MunEngTreas

Smith, Adam, *Wealth of Nations*, Selections from Book IV Blackboard Vista: WNBkIVMerc


Feb. 9 Locke, John, “Some Considerations of the Consequence of the Lowering of Interest and the Raising the Value of Money (1691) Blackboard Vista: LockeInterest

Feb. 11 Cantillon, Richard, Essay on the Nature of Commerce etc (1755), Blackboard Vista: CantillonEssai


Mar. 2 Examination

Mar. 4 Himmelfarb, Gertrude, “The Specter of Malthus,” Victorian Minds (1968), pp. 82-110


Mar. 25 Marx, Karl, *Capital* (1867) Blackboard Vista: MarxII


Mar. 30 Notes on the Marginal Productivity Theory of Distribution, Blackboard Vista: MPDistThNote


Apr. 6 Notes on Marshall and Monetary Theory, Blackboard Vista: MarshallMoney


Apr. 13 Keynes J.M., “The End of Laissez Faire,” (1926), Blackboard Vista: Keynes2


McLaughlin, Francis, “Keynes’ Challenge to the Classical Tradition” BlackBoard Vista: McLKeynes

Mitchell, Wesley C., Commons on Institutional Economics Blackboard Vista: Mitchell

Apr. 27 McLaughlin, Francis, John Rogers Commons: “Are His Insights Important in Teaching Modern Labor Economics?” Blackboard Vista: CommonsDft

Apr. 29 Thorstein Veblen, The Theory of the Leisure Class, Blackboardd Vista, Veblen

May 2 Canavan, Francis, “The Popes and the Economy.” Blackboard Vista: Canavan


May 12 Final Examination at 9:00 a.m.