

Economics 235 - Economics and Values

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m., Carney 307
Father Joseph Fahey, S.J. - Carney 145

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: 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 15% of the grade; two exams, a mid-term and a final, 30%, and a paper of about 8-10 pages will constitute 25% 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, mainly from *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*, as issues from the campaign develop. These readings will total no more than the equivalent of 200 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, Number 135, Spring, 1999.

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

Anne Marie Cammisa, From Rhetoric to Reform.

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

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

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

Jonathan Chait, "Security Risk," New Republic, January 18, 1999.

Paul E. Peterson, "A Liberal Case for Vouchers," New Republic, October 4, 1999.

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

