

Boston College  
Department of Economics  
Spring Semester, 1998-9

EC 233 - History of Economic Thought

Instructor: Professor F. M. McLaughlin

Office: Carney 130

Office Hours: MWF 10:00-10:55 a.m. and by appointment

Class Meetings: MWF at 9:00 a.m.

Place: Carney 106

Required Text:

Landreth, Harry, and Colander, David, History of Economic Thought (Houghton Mifflin, Third Edition, 1994)

Scope of the Course

This course will survey the history of economic thought from the ancient Greeks through the modern period. The emphasis of the course will be on classical and neo-classical economics from Adam Smith through John Maynard Keynes and the neo-classical synthesis of Paul Samuelson. Attention will also be given to contemporary developments.

Note Well:

The Dean of A&S has reminded faculty that class attendance is required, and may be taken into account in grading. According to the academic regulations published in the A&S Catalogue students are expected to attend class regularly, take tests and submit papers and other works at the times specified in the course syllabus. Student 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.

Grading and Examinations:

There will be two hour long examinations during the course of the semester, and a comprehensive final during the examination period. The hour examinations will be on February 17 and March 29. There will also be a written paper. Each of the hour examinations and the paper will count for 20 percent of the final grade, and the final examination will count for 30 percent. Class participation will account for the remaining 10 percent. Students should plan to be present on scheduled examination dates. Make-up examinations will not be given except at the request of the Dean, and only when the absence is for serious reason. Students are responsible for the assigned readings, and should prepare for class by doing it currently. Students should raise questions about the assigned reading which should be done in advance of class meetings.

Written Paper:

A paper of 8 -10 pages will be due on April 23. The topic must be agreed to by the student and professor no later than February 5. Papers must be carefully organized and written, and should be proof read before being turned in. Pay careful attention to grammar and spelling. Acknowledge all sources of facts and ideas, and be careful in citing the work of others. Plagiarism is seriously dishonest and should be thoroughly shunned.

Calendar:Introduction.

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 1.

Economics in Ancient Greece

Landreth and Colander, ch. 2, pp. 24-28.  
Aristotle, Nichomachean Ethics, Bk. V, Chs. 2-5.

Scholastic Economics

Landreth and Colander, ch. 2, pp. 28-34.  
McLaughlin, "Notes on Usury."  
DeRoover, R., "The Concept of Just Price...", Journal of Economic History, December 1958, pp. 418-38.

Mercantilism

Landreth and Colander, ch. 3, pp. 36-50.  
Smith, Adam, Wealth of Nations, Bk IV, ch. 1.  
Rashid, S., "Adam Smith's Interpretation of The History of Economics...", Quarterly Review of Economics and Business, Autumn, 1987, pp. 56-69.

Physiocracy

Landreth and Colander, ch. 3, pp. 50-58.  
Smith, Adam, Wealth of Nations, Bk IV, Ch. 9.  
McLaughlin, "Physiocracy."

Adam Smith

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 4.  
Smith, Adam, Wealth of Nations, Bks I, II, and V.  
Heilbroner, Worldly Philosophers, (6th edition), Ch. 3, pp. 42-74  
Robertson, H. M., and Taylor, W.L., "Adam Smith's Approach to the Theory of Value," Economic Journal, June, 1957, pp. 181-198.  
Rosenberg, N., "Adam Smith on the Division of Labor," Economica, May, 1965, pp. 127-139.  
Rosenberg, N., "Some Institutional Aspects of the Wealth of Nations," Journal of Political Economy, Dec., 1960, pp. 557-570.  
Stigler, G., J. "The Successes and Failures of Professor Smith," Journal of Political Economy, Dec., 1976, pp. 1199-1213.

Ricardo and Malthus

Landreth and Colander, ch. 5.  
Heilbroner, Worldly Philosophers, (6th edition), ch. 4, pp. 75-104.  
Dorfman, R., "Thomas Robert Malthus & David Ricardo", The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Summer 1989, Vol. 3, No.3, pp. 153-164.  
"Robert Malthus: The First of the Cambridge Economists," in Keynes, J. M., Essays in Biography (Harcourt, Brace and Company: New York, 1933), pp. 95-149.

Stigler, G. J. "The Ricardian Theory of Value and Distribution," The Journal of Political Economy, June, 1952, pp, 187-207. Reprinted in Stigler, G. J., Essays in the History of Economics, (University of Chicago Press, 1965). pp. 156-197.  
 Stigler, G. J., "Ricardo and the 93% Labor Theory of Value", American Economic Review, Vol. XLVIII (June, 1958), pp. 357-367. Reprinted in Stigler, G. J., Essays in the History of Economics, (University of Chicago Press, 1965), pp. 326-342.

### John Stuart Mill

Landreth and Colander, ch. 6.  
 Heilbroner, Worldly Philosophers (6th edition), ch. 5, pp. 105-135, esp. pp. 127-135.  
 Taylor, O. H., "John Stuart Mill: Economics & Political Economy," A History of Economic Thought (McGraw-Hill, 1960), pp. 247-270.

### Karl Marx

Landreth and Colander, ch. 7.  
 Heilbroner, Worldly Philosophers (6th edition), ch.6, pp. 136-170  
 Schumpeter, J. A., "The Marxian Doctrine," in Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy (Harper Torchbooks, 1975), pp. 5-58.  
 Marx, K., & Engels, F., The Communist Manifesto.

### Marginal Analysis.

Landreth and Colander, ch. 8.  
 Heilbroner, Worldly Philosophers (6th edition), ch. 7, pp. 171-178.  
 McLaughlin, "The Theory of Value in English Classical and Neo-classical Economics."  
 Hutchison, T.W., "The 'Marginal Revolution' and the Decline and Fall of English Political Economy," History of Political Economy, Fall, 1972, pp. 442-468.  
 Blaug, M., "Was There a Marginal Revolution?" History of Political Economy, Vol. 4, no. 2, Fall, 1972, pp. 269-280.  
 Black, R.D. Collison, "W.S. Jevons and the Foundation of Modern Economics," History of Political Economy, Vol. 4, No.2, Fall, 1972, pp. 364-378.

### Marginal Analysis Extended.

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 9.  
 McLaughlin, "Schumpeter's Theory of Economic Development."

### General Equilibrium Theory

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 10.

### Marshall and Neo-Classical Economics

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 11.  
 Heilbroner, Worldly Philosophers, pp. 206-212.  
 McLaughlin, "Marshall and Monetary Theory."  
 Keynes, J. M., "Alfred Marshall," in Essays in Biography (Harcourt Brace and Company: New York, 1933), pp.150-266.

### Early Critics of Neoclassical Economics.

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 12.

Heilbroner, Worldly Philosophers (6th edition), ch. 7, pp. 178-212.

McLaughlin, "The History of American Labor Economics."

Koot, G. M., "T.E. Cliffe Leslie, Irish Social Reform, and the Origins of the English Historical School of Economics," History of Political Economy, Fall, 1975, pp. 312-336.

#### Austrians, Neoclassicals, and Socialists

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 13.

#### The Development of Modern Heterodox Economics.

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 14.

Heilbroner, Worldly Philosophers (6th edition), ch. 8, pp. 213-248.

#### The Development of Modern Microeconomics.

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 15.

#### The Development of Modern Macroeconomics.

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 16.

Heilbroner, Worldly Philosophers (6th edition), ch. 9, pp. 249-287.

McLaughlin, "Keynes Challenge to the Classical Tradition."

#### The Development of Econometrics.

Landreth and Colander, Ch. 17.

#### A Summing Up

Heilbroner, Robert L., "Modern Economics as a chapter in the history of economic thought," History of Political Economy, Vol. 11, No. 2, Summer, 1979, pp. 192-198.

#### Final Examination