

University of Hawai`i at Hilo
School of Business and Economics
Department of Economics

Spring 2002 Economics 305 WI—The History of Economic Thought D. Hammes

Time: 8:00AM - 9:15AM, T-R

Place: EKH 112

Office: PB-9, #3 Office Phone: 974-7523 E-mail: Hammes@Hawaii.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 AM — 11:30AM; Tuesdays and

Thursdays, 9:30 AM — 10:30AM, and by appointment.

Texts: Skousen, Mark, The Making of Modern Economics-The Lives and Ideas of the Great Thinkers, M.E. Sharpe, 2001. "Skousen".

Selections From The Wealth of Nations, edited by George Stigler; Harlan Davidson/Crofts Classics, 1957. "Smith".

Plus: in-class hand-outs!

Course Description: Most, if not all of you, are ECON majors and have taken ECON 300 and ECON 301. You have certainly had ECON 130 and ECON 131 (or their equivalents elsewhere) as they are prerequisites for this course. You know all there is to know about Economics. If this is true why in the world are you take this course? This course is intended to explore current issues of importance in economics, and the world, for example, free vs. "fair" trade, unemployment, inflation, income distribution, business cycles, and other topical issues. We do this exploration by studying the economics of past thinkers. We do this not to show that there were great thinkers in the past (of course there were) but to show that, in economics, the important issues rarely change, only the level and method of analysis change.

We will also see that Economics, far from being a perfected and agreed upon body of thought, is a lively discipline with debates (with precursors going back hundreds of years) raging within the profession on several fronts.

If you aren't lucky enough to be an economics major the above words also apply to you. This course ought to be relevant for your studies and understanding of why economists say and do what they do. And, hopefully, this course will increase your understanding of why the social and economic world is organized as it is.

Economics is a "live" and lively subject. This is a course which should be challenging to you and your understanding. More importantly, this course can be fun.

EXAM FORMAT: Take home mid-terms: essay questions. Final exam: short answer/essay questions

Assessment: Two take-home “mid”-term examinations each worth 22.5% of course grade,

One comprehensive Final Examination: worth 25% of your course grade

One term paper: worth 15% of course grade.

Class Participation and other evidence of interest and contributions
15%.

I will use the plus/minus grading scheme.

Reading Assignment and Test Schedule:

January 13 - February 11: Chapters 1-5 in Skousen and Smith (all) plus hand-outs

February 13: First take-home mid-term exam DUE: February 18.

February 18— March 20: Chapters 6— 12 in Skousen, plus hand-outs.

March 20: Second take-home mid-term exam. DUE: April 1.

April 3 — May 6: Chapters 13— 17 in Skousen and hand-outs

May 13: final exam, 7:30AM — 9:30AM

Note: you know now the dates of the exams. If these cause any problems (e.g. “too many” final exams on the same day) please make the appropriate adjustments NOW. I will not alter the dates of the exams.

THE PAPER: Everyone will start the semester by choosing an economist or an idea in economics, (I will provide a suggestive, but NOT exhaustive, list in the first week of classes. You will then write a paper giving a brief biography of “your” economist, an outline of your economist’s contribution to the field, and the influence of your economist on subsequent economic thought. You will also present your findings in class towards the end of the semester.

You will be expected to provide me with an outline and a bibliography two weeks after choosing your topic. This will be on February 20. I will review the outline and make comments, both on the outline and the bibliography. **No later than April 10, you will turn in a first draft of your paper.** I will make comments upon this draft and return it to you. **Finally, your finished product is due no later than April 29.**

So: Feb. 20: initial outline+bibliography, if not done on-time I will subtract 2.5 points from paper

April 10: first draft, if not done on-time I will subtract 2.5 points from paper.

April 29: finished paper, I will not accept late papers and your paper must be typewritten.

Note I will gladly review second (third, etc.) drafts prior to April 17.

The paper is not intended to cause you sleepless nights. I will help you, both through written and verbal feedback. In terms of length, I am expecting 10-20 pages, depending on your style and research. Note however, that I will have two, or more, "looks" at your work prior to your turning in the finished version. I will be able to help you meet this length requirement as you go along.

It is very important that you stick to, and meet, the deadlines above. To encourage you I have set up a system that rewards timeliness. If you are late at any stage an automatic deduction will be made from the final point score awarded your paper. Think of this as 15 points possible. If you miss the first deadline you are then looking at a maximum of 12.5 points rather than 15. If you miss the second deadline in addition to missing the first you are down to 10 points maximum. If you miss the third deadline you are down to zero points for the paper.

Class Participation: This is a seminar course This means the course is not the "straight-ahead" lecture style that you might have become used to from me. **YOU MUST read the assigned material prior to class.** You must also be willing to ask questions about and discuss the portions of the material you do not understand or that you find confusing. You will find that (a) there are no bad questions, and (b) if you have a question many of your classmates will have that same question. Therefore, if you ask the question you do yourself a favor, your classmates a favor, and me a favor. Questions are encouraged. Silence is discouraged.

While you will be giving a presentation on your research you are also required to participate in class seminars daily. This component of your grade is worth a maximum of 15%. I assign this on the basis of who appears to be ready to discuss the material, who discusses the material, and the contributions to others' knowledge that you are making.

In order to stimulate questions, I will assign you randomly into small groups and at the beginning of each class meeting each group will submit at least one question on the material to be discussed. With luck, all questions will be answered by the end of the class meeting.

MISSING EXAMS: Attendance: You know now the dates of the mid-terms and Final exams in this course. The only acceptable excuses for missing exam(s) will be medical in nature (please have documentation) or other reason(s) that I find compelling (e.g. court appearance). You **MUST** let me know as soon as possible if you are going to miss an exam Of course, with take-home exams this is not as likely to be a problem. However, samples of reasons found unacceptable in the past: "I overslept.", "My alarm clock didn't go off.", "I am just not ready for this exam.", "My car broke ~own/I missed my ride.", "I have another exam today and want to do well in it so can I miss this one?", and 'What?! We have an exam today?'

POSSIBLE CHEATING AND/OR PLAGIARISM: Cheating on exams: Do not attempt to cheat. If caught cheating you (and any confederates) will be given a 0% on the exam in question. There may be further actions (e.g. possible expulsion from the university) taken against you.

Plagiarism: from page 5 of the Student Conduct Code, UHH, January 1993, "Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify

as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; purchasing term papers," etc.

Plagiarism will result in an F for the course and possible expulsion from the university or other sanctions taken against you. There are many resources available on the internet these days that allow us to quite easily and quite quickly detect plagiarism... probably more easily than we could in the days prior to the Internet!

Is there anything you would like to know about this course that is not on this syllabus somewhere? If so, please ASK NOW! Thank you for your patience and have fun!

Any student with a documented disability who would like to request an accommodation should contact the University Disability Services Office at 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY), 974-7691 (Fax), shirachi@hawaii.edu (Campus Center Rm 311), as early in the semester as possible.

Note: Here Dr. Hammes includes a copy of the official semester calendar here; this did not scan properly and is not included in this digitalized version of the syllabus.