

History and Philosophy of Economics I (ECON 318A/PHIL 362)

COURSE SYLLABUS Fall Term 2023

TR 3:30 to 5PM

Professor Margaret Schabas

Course Description: We will trace the development of economic thought from Aristotle to Robert Malthus, also reading brief excerpts from the work of Aquinas, Thomas Mun, John Locke, and François Quesnay. We will read, in more depth, the writings of David Hume and Adam Smith, and acquire a broader context from Albert O. Hirschman's book on early capitalism. Our focus will be on the conceptual foundations of economics, particularly the problems of value, distribution, and economic growth, as well as the ethical dimensions of commerce. For on-line supporting material, use the UBC Library links to the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* or the *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. I have also posted on Canvas a list of books as supplementary readings, for your edification.

Texts: Albert O. Hirschman, *The Passions and the Interests*, 2nd ed. (2013)

Robert L. Heilbroner, ed., *The Essential Adam Smith* (1986)

Additional Required Readings (available on Canvas)

Grading:	Two tests	30 (October 3; November 7)
	Research Essay Outline	5 (October 26)
	Research Essay	35 (December 7)
	Final Exam	<u>30</u> (December TBA)
		100%

Caveat: Unless granted a concession, late assignments (after 10PM on the due date) are penalized at 5% per day.

Logistics: The tests and final exam are both comprehensive. You will be assigned essay questions (short and long) which require you to synthesize the material and develop arguments. Instructions for the research essay are posted on Canvas. Your essay will adjudicate a specific scholarly debate, selected by your research, on Adam Smith. Grades are based on your comprehension of the material and the clarity of your writing.

Class Schedule

September 7	Preliminaries
September 12	Aristotle
September 14	Aristotle (continued); Hirschman (Parts I-II)
September 19	Aquinas
September 21	Emergence of Capitalism
September 26	Mun; Hirschman (Part III)
September 28	Locke
October 3	First Test (in class)
October 5	Hume on Money
October 10	Hume on Interest and on Trade
October 12	Hume on Public Finance; Schabas and Wennerlind (article)
October 17	Quesnay
October 19.	Smith on Epistemology (pp. 1-36)
October 24	Smith on Jurisprudence (pp. 37-56)
October 26	Smith TMS (pp. 57-88); Research Essay Outline Due (online)
October 31	Smith TMS (pp. 88-132)
November 2	Smith TMS (pp. 133-147); Fleischacker SEP entry
November 7	Second Test (in class)
November 9	Smith WN on Value and Prices (pp. 149-194)
November 14	Midterm Break
November 16	Smith WN on Production (pp. 194-227)
November 21	Smith WN on Capital Accumulation (pp. 227-258)
November 23	Smith WN on Political Economy (pp. 258-290)
November 28	Smith WN on Public Finance (pp. 290-320)
November 30	Smith Overview Research Essay Due (online)
December 5	Malthus
December 7	Malthus (continued) Exam Preview Distributed

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Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own.

Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work

submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

A link about Academic misconduct is below

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>