

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

Fall Term 2025 Tues/Thursday 3:30 to 4:50PM LASR 102

Professor Margaret Schabas Buchanan E358 Office Hours: Thursday 1 to 3PM

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. Two secondary sources, one on Hume and the other on Smith, are also assigned. 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.

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

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

Additional Required Course Readings (CR: Links given on Canvas)

Grading:	Two tests	30 (September 25; October 21)
	Research Essay Outline	5 (October 30)
	Research Essay	35 (December 2)
	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. Please direct your emails to the Teaching Assistant. No AI Tools are permitted. This means no use is permitted of Chat GPT, Deepl, or any other AI Tool that composes prose or translates from another language.

Logistics: The tests and final exam are both comprehensive and consist of essay questions (short and long) which require you to synthesize the material and develop arguments that reach a clear position. Previews will be distributed in the preceding class. You will write them using the Lockdown Browser App on Canvas. Instructions for the research essay are posted on Canvas. Grades are based on your comprehension of the material and the quality and clarity of your arguments.

Optional Sources: For supplementary materials, I suggest you read from the list posted on Canvas, browse the UBC library stacks (call number HB), or consult the online *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* or the *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. There is one excellent textbook: Henry Spiegel, *The Growth of Economic Thought*. It is available on a 2-hour loan at Koerner (Reserves).

Class Schedule

September 4	Preliminaries
September 9	Aristotle (CR)
September 11	Aquinas (CR)
September 16	Mun (CR)
September 18	Hirschman (entire book)
September 23	Locke (CR) Preview of First Test
September 25	First Test (in class)
October 2	Hume on Money (CR)
October 7	Hume on Interest (CR)
October 9	Hume on Trade (CR)
October 14	Hume on Public Finance (CR); Schabas and Wennerlind (CR)
October 16	Quesnay (CR) Preview of Second Test
October 21	Second Test (in class)
October 23	Smith on Knowledge and Jurisprudence (pp. 1-56)
October 28	Smith on Moral Philosophy (pp. 57-118)
October 30	Fleischacker on Smith (CR) Research Essay Outline Due
November 4	Smith on Virtue (pp. 118-147);
November 6	Smith on Value and Prices (pp. 149-194)
November 13	Smith on Production (pp. 194-227)
November 18	Smith on Growth (pp. 227-258)
November 20	Smith on Political Economy (pp. 258-332)
November 25-27	No Classes (Work on Research Essay)
December 2	Malthus (CR) Research Essay Due (Dec 2)
December 4	Malthus (CR) Preview of Final Exam (December 4)
December TBA	Final Examination

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as their 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.

Policy on academic honesty

All violations of UBC's standards for academic integrity will be reported to the office of the Dean of Arts. All violations of academic integrity standards will result in a grade of zero on the relevant assessment (exam, paper, assignment etc.). Students who do not have a previous offence may have the option to enter into a diversionary process with the Dean of Arts to resolve their misconduct (<https://academicintegrity.ubc.ca/diversionary-process/>). Any student who has a previous academic offence will be referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline (PACSD) (<https://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/homepage/guides-and-resources/discipline/>). PACSD may impose additional penalties including: a transcript notation indicating that the student has committed an academic offence, zero in the course, and/or suspension or expulsion from the University. You are personally responsible for understanding and following the UBC's policies for academic integrity: <https://vancouver.calendar.ubc.ca/campus-wide-policies-and-regulations/academic-honesty-and-standards>.

Policy on academic concessions

There are only three acceptable grounds for academic concessions at UBC: unexpected changes in personal responsibilities that create a schedule conflict; medical circumstances; and compassionate grounds when the student experiences a traumatic event, sexual assault, or death in the family or of a close friend. Academic concessions for graded work and exams are granted for work that will be missed due to unexpected situations or circumstances. **Situations that are expected (such as time constraints due to workload in other courses) or are predictable (such as being scheduled for paid work) are not grounds for academic concession.** Requests for academic concessions should be made before the due date for that graded work and/or the writing of the exam. UBC policy does not allow for concessions to students who have missed work because they have registered for a course after the due date for that work. You can read

more about the rules for academic concessions here: <https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/academic-learning-resources/academic-concessions>. Students in the Faculty of Arts who require a concession can apply for concessions using this form here: <https://students.air.arts.ubc.ca/academic-concession-form/>. Students in other Faculties should consult their faculty website on academic concessions. Please note that the role of the faculty advising office is to review the evidence and to either support or not support concession requests. **The final decision to grant the request always rests with your instructor.**

Student success

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious, spiritual and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here: <https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success/>.

Policy on the use of AI learning tools

The specific rules for the use of AI tools are at the discretion of the course instructor. Those rules might change over the course of the term as new technologies become available. Changes to those rules might change the content of assessments and the way that your work is evaluated. If no written instructions on the use of AI tools have been provided by the instructor, the use of all AI tools is strictly prohibited in the course. Where the written instructions permit the use of AI tools, that usage must be documented and attributed within your assessment(s). Students are responsible for all factual inaccuracies that are created by the use of AI tools. Please speak to your instructor if you have further questions about the ways in which AI technology use is permitted in this course. **For this course, no AI Tools are permitted. This means no use is permitted of Chat GPT, Deepl, or any other AI Tool that composes prose or translates from another language.**

Policy on sharing course materials

All the materials provided to you as part of this course are protected by copyright. All assignment instructions, quiz questions and answers, discussion questions, announcements, lecture slides, audio/video recordings, Canvas modules, and any other materials provided to you by your instructor or in the textbook are for use only by students enrolled in this course this term. Sharing any of these materials beyond this course, including by posting on file-sharing websites (e.g., CourseHero, Google Docs) is a violation of copyright law and an academic offence. Copying and pasting sentences from the lecture notes or the textbook (e.g., definitions) into for-profit software (e.g., Quizlet) is likewise a violation of copyright law, and an academic offence. Violations of this policy will be treated according to the provisos of the Code of Student Conduct. For further information, see <https://copyright.ubc.ca/students/>.