

ECON 336 A01

Topics in History of Economic Thought

Spring Session: 2026 01 – CRN 21032, 1.5 units, 3.0 hrs, MWT 2:30-3:20 COR A221

UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Lek'wəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lek'wəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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Course Content

Selected theories of economic thought through the ages. This course introduces writings on Economics from the ancient world to the 21st century. Over the year, many and diverse ideas have developed to understand and explain the economy, to describe and evaluate the creation and distribution of economic goods and services. We will follow these ideas as they evolved and reflect the concerns and activities of the changing economic circumstances. We will generally focus on the tradition of economic thinking that has led to the subject of Economics that is taught elsewhere in your program. For the most part, this work has been **written** (or in some cases translated) into English. As much as we can, we will endeavour to consider these ideas in their context and not judge them in the light of what now passes for mainstream economic thought.

Learning Outcomes

By completing the course students can expect to have learned how to:

- *Describe the development of core ideas in Economics*
- *Summarize the key concepts as expressed by specific authors*
- *Connect economic ideas to specific authors*
- *Connect the writing of economists to the circumstances (e.g. technology and political environments) in which they were created*
- *Practice writing short, well-constructed summaries and analyses*

Course prerequisites/corequisites

- *Complete all of the following*
 - *Complete 1 of:*
 - *ECON103 - Principles of Microeconomics (1.5)*
 - *ECON180 - Introduction to Economics and Financial Project Evaluation (1.5)*
 - *Complete all of:*
 - *ECON104 - Principles of Macroeconomics (1.5)*
 - *Complete 1 of:*
 - *ECON225 - Writing for Economists (1.5)*
 - *ENGR240 - Technical Writing (1.5)*

Textbook

The course materials and readings are linked to the Brightspace page. These should be available to you through the University Library. Because of the occasional difficulties obtaining these resources, I encourage you to verify you have access as early as possible and consider downloading pdf versions. **Let me know immediately if a specific resource is not available to you.**

Brightspace

Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture notes will be posted in *Brightspace*. Please note that the any lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.

All announcements will be posted in *Brightspace*. Please subscribe to the announcements and questions forums and to check the pages there frequently.

Grading

Grading Scheme

In- Class Writing Assignments	25%
Three In-term Exams	45%
Final Exam	30%

The in-class writing assignments are based on the required readings (as indicated on the Brightspace page). These will be short reflections on a contribution by one of the authors we study. Your reflection will address a specific question distributed in class, which will be linked to an aspect of the author's work we emphasize in class. Higher grades will depend on being concise and focussing on the question asked. General summaries will earn lower grades.

The in-term exams will be closed book exams covering the course material, lectures and readings. These will be non-cumulative, addressing work covered since the previous exam (or in the first instance, the start of term).

The final exam will be cumulative, written at the time scheduled by the University.

Mandatory/Essential Course Components

Students who have completed the following **course requirements** will be considered to have completed the course:

- two or more in-term exams
- the final exam

Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of "N" **regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course**. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0. **Attendance at all classes is expected. Students who miss more than 5 classes may be denied permission to write the final exam. Please ensure that your schedule permits you to attend all classes and contact me immediately if you are unable to attend a class.**

Dates of Assessments, Due Dates of Assignments

Assignments: In class writing assignments will be distributed regularly, approximately once a week (with some breaks)

Midterms: The midterm exams will be held on January 28, March 5 and April 1. These are non-cumulative.

Grading Scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F or N
90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	50-59	0-49

Students should review the University's more detailed [summary of grading](#).

Missing Assessments

Should students encounter a situation where they miss an exam or cannot submit an assignment at its due date, they may qualify for an academic concession. Students are required to indicate the specific grounds on which they are requesting an academic concession and to provide a justification outlining the impact of the circumstances on their ability to complete course requirements. For in-course extensions, please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#) [or specify alternative means of communicating a request such as filling in a request on Brightspace]. I will not respond to informal requests of academic concessions. [Note any automatic academic concessions such as putting the weight of a missed midterm for a legitimate reason on the final, dropping the two worst grades of quizzes etc.] In case you miss the final exam, fill in a [request for a deferral](#).

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. Students do not qualify for an academic concession if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Course Policies

This course adheres to the [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance:

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.

- Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Review [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

Student Code of Conduct

The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this [Student code of conduct](#). Please, review.

University Policies

- University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Non-academic Student Misconduct](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Diversity / EDI](#)
- [Equity statement](#)
- Discrimination and Harassment [Policy](#)
- [Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness](#) - The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact svpcoordinator@uvic.ca.

Resources for Students

[UVic Learn Anywhere](#) - UVic Learn Anywhere is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.

[Centre for Accessible Learning](#) - Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Centre for Academic Communication](#) - Offers coaching on [academic integrity](#), including preventing accidental plagiarism. Provides support to students with time management, reading, writing, speaking, understanding academic expectations, and other aspects of academic communication as well as creating academic posters, blogposts, PowerPoint slides, and e-portfolios.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full-service primary health clinic for students and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Support Connect](#) - a 24/7 mental health support service for students

- Toll-free (calls from North America): 1-844-773-1427
- International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

[Counselling Services](#) - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[Indigenous Student Services](#) - Indigenous UVic students have access to many sources of support on campus. Before, during and after your time at UVic, you are encouraged to explore programs and services available to you, such as [Indigenous counselling services](#) and the [Elders in Residence](#), as well as non-academic programs that may be of interest to you.

[International Student Support](#) - The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program.

For academic advising-related questions, students in the Economics Department are also encouraged to meet with the Economics Undergraduate Advisor (Brooklynn Comish-Trimble, ecadvice@uvic.ca) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#).

The International Student Liaison in the Economics Department is Dr. Paul Schure who can help you connect with other international and domestic students in the Department. His email address is schure@uvic.ca. Please, reach out if you are interested.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the [CES log-in](#). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?

Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.

Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

Course Structure

Below is the anticipated structure of the course. The material will proceed mostly chronologically, with a few recurrent themes linking authors across time. More detail will be provided on the Brightspace pages.

Topic	Week	Due Dates and Exam Information
Introduction	1	
Early Contributions	2	
Scientific Economics	3	
	4	Midterm 1 January 28
Classical Consolidation	5	
	6	
READING BREAK	7	
The Marginal Revolution	8	
	9	Midterm 2 March 5
Macroeconomics	10	
	11	
Value and Growth	12	
	13	Midterm 3 April 1 Classes end on April 2

E-mail Correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be

used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear....), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo should not be used.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

We will discuss the use of Generative AI throughout the course, but please note that on graded material the use of Generative AI **requires explicit permission** and will come with conditions that may exceed the assignment requirements as distributed. Generative AI is embedded in many tools, so if you are in doubt, **ask me**. Be prepared to explain how this tool is assisting rather than replacing the development of your own understanding, and how its use is improving rather than reducing my ability to assess your understanding of the course material.

Thank you for reading this document. I hope you have a rewarding and successful in Economics 336