



ECON 336 A01

Topics in History of Economic Thought

Fall Session: 2026 09 – CRN 11129, 1.5 units, 3.0 hrs, TWF 11:30-12:20 COR B143

UVic Land Acknowledgement

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

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Office Hours: On Zoom: Wednesday 1:00-2:00 PM or by appointment

Meeting ID: 848 6124 6818

Password: 11129

TA Name:

Office:

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Office Hours:

Course Content

Selected theories of economic thought through the ages. This course introduces writings on Economics from the ancient world to the 21st century. Many writers have sought to understand, explain and evaluate the “economy”, the creation and distribution of economic goods and services. We will follow a chain of these ideas as they develop and reflect the structures, concerns and activities of changing economic circumstances. Typically, the History of Economic Thought focuses on the tradition of economic thinking that leads to the subject of Economics as taught elsewhere in your program. Generally, this is work that was written or translated into English.

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
- Gained practice in
 - Reading original works by authors in earlier centuries
 - Using terminology with care and precision
 - 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. All should be available to you through the University Library, and many can be found elsewhere. I always confirm that the readings are available to me, but sometimes this changes and other times students are not able to access ones that remain accessible to me. This can always be resolved, but to ensure timely access I strongly encourage you to verify you have access as early as possible and consider downloading pdf versions where possible. **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 generally be posted in *Brightspace*, typically after the lecture is delivered. 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%
In-term Exams	30%
Final Exam	45%

The in-class writing assignments are based on the required readings (as indicated on the Brightspace page). These are typically 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 written in the exam period after classes. The final emphasises material since the second midterm but will cover themes and authors from the whole course. Exam questions will be similar to the class writing assignments, but will usually ask you to discuss the contribution of more than one author on a specific topic.

Mandatory/Essential Course Components

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

- one in-term exam
- the final exam

Failure to complete one or both of the required components 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). **I do not promise to indicate the timing of assignments in advance, so plan to keep up on the reading and attend class regularly.**

Midterms: The midterm exams will be held on October 9 and November 6. These are non-cumulative.

Grading Scale

A+	90-100%
A	85-89%
A-	80-84%
B+	77-79%
B	73-76%
B-	70-72%
C+	65-69%
C	60-64%
D	50-59%
F or N	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 is fundamental to all scholarly work. At the University of Victoria (UVic), students are expected to comply with the university's academic regulations and must not engage in acts of dishonesty, falsification, misrepresentation, or deception in any academic work. Violations of [the University's academic integrity policy](#) may result in academic or disciplinary consequences.

Appeals

Depending on the nature of your concern, the order in which you should normally try to resolve the matter is:

1. Me, the course instructor
2. the Associate Chair: econassoc@uvic.ca
3. the Associate Dean of Academic Advising
4. the Senate.

If you're seeking a formal review of an assigned grade, you should also consult the regulations in the academic calendar regarding [review of an assigned grade](#).

University Policies

- a. University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- b. [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- c. [Academic Integrity](#)
- d. [Academic Concession Regulations](#), [Academic Concession and Accommodation](#), Academic Accommodation – [Policy AC1205](#)
- e. [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- f. [Student Conduct](#)
- g. [Accessibility](#)
- h. [Diversity / EDI](#)
- i. [Equity statement](#)
- j. [Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response](#)
- k. [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#)

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 svpcordinator@uvic.ca.

Resources for Students

- a. [Student wellness](#)
- b. [Centre for Accessible Learning](#)
- c. [UVic Learn](#). UVic Learn is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.
- d. [Library](#) resources
- e. Academic Skills Centre [ASC](#)
- f. Learning Assistance Program ([LAP](#))
- g. [Academic Advising](#)
- h. Economics Undergraduate Advising: ecadvice@uvic.ca
- i. [Student Awards and Financial Aid](#)
- j. [International Student Advising](#)
- k. Indigenous student services ([ISS](#))
- l. [Student groups and resources](#) including UVic [Ombudsperson](#)

Student Experience of Learning (SEL) Survey

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential SEL survey 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.

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 and Background	1	
Value and Justice in Exchange	2	
Power and Autonomy	3	
Scientific Economics	4	Midterm 1 October 9
Commercial Society	5	
Labour, Capital and Technology	6	
Capitalism and Socialism	7	
The Marginal Revolution	8	
Business Cycles	9	Midterm 2 November 6
READING BREAK	10	November 9 - 11
Growth and Development	11	
Recent Developments	12	
Wrap up	13	Midterm 3 December 2 Last class December 4

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 about the use of the tool**. 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.

You are responsible for the content they produce and must be able to demonstrate full knowledge and understanding of their work upon oral assessment. Avoiding plagiarism, inaccurate citations, and incomplete or incorrect work is your responsibility. If asked about AI use, honesty is required. AI may not be used during exams, quizzes or other in class assignments.

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