



ECON 474: Recent Economic Thought

Course Information:

Instructor: Edward R. Teather-Posadas

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Office: Clark C319-A

Office Hours: MWF 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Meeting Times: MWF 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm

Location: Natural Resources 109

Course Description:

Recent Economic Thought is a seminar-style class that explores, in an interdisciplinary manner, recent developments in economic thought. Special attention will be paid to the issues of ethics and justice within economics, with a particular focus on economic inequality and economic methodology.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, students should:

- Be versed in the rhetoric and methodology of recent economic thought
- Be versed in the role of justice in economic thought.
- Have a broad understanding of issues of wealth and income inequality.
- Be able to write clearly and articulately on a range of economic issues.

Course Materials:

There are no required course materials for this class, all readings will be made available via Canvas.

Prerequisites:

This course requires Economics 304 (Intermediate Macroeconomics) and Economics 306 (Intermediate Microeconomics)

Coursework and Grading Schedule:

There are 1000 pts possible in this class, distributed in the following manner:



<i>Assignment:</i>	<i>Points/Frequency:</i>	<i>Total Points:</i>
<i>Exams</i>	Three @ 250 pts	750
<i>Final Project</i>	150	150
<i>Participation</i>	100	100
	<i>Class Total:</i>	1000

Exams: Three exams will be given throughout the semester, one at the end of each section of the class. The exams will be take-home essay exams, given on a Friday and due the following Monday.

Course Project/Presentation: Details to follow later in the semester.

Participation: Participation is key in this class. Participation involves asking/answering questions, being involved in classroom discussions, and generally taking an active role in your learning.

Total Course Time Estimates:

Attend Lecture	3 hrs
Prepare for Exams	2 hr
Personal Reading/Studying	4 hrs
Total Hours per Week	9 hrs

Letter Grades:

Each number below represents the minimum point threshold necessary to achieve the following letter grade, *note that this class uses +/- grading.*

980 pts. – 1000 pts.	A+
921 pts. – 979 pts.	A
900 pts. – 920 pts.	A-
880 pts. – 899 pts.	B+
820 pts. – 879 pts.	B
800 pts. – 819 pts.	B-
780 pts. – 799 pts.	C+
700 pts. – 779 pts.	C
600 pts. – 699 pts.	D
000 pts. – 599 pts.	F



Make-ups, Missing Assignments, and Regrades:

No makeup exams or participation point activities will be allowed. The only exceptions are for exams and papers in cases of documented medical emergencies or conflicts with University sanctioned activities. Generally these need to be made up prior to the actual deadline, with rare exception. Any regrade requests must be made within one week of receiving the grade. I reserve the right to regrade the entire assignment when requests are made.

Academic Integrity:

We take academic integrity seriously. At minimum, academic integrity means that no one will use another's work as their own. The CSU writing center defines plagiarism this way:

"Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding credit be given where credit is due."

—Writing Guides: Understanding Plagiarism.

<http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/researchsources/understandingplagiarism>

Academic Dishonesty could result in expulsion from the university. This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policies and Guiding Principles as found in the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

Of course, academic integrity means more than just avoiding plagiarism and cheating. It also involves doing your own reading and studying. It includes class attendance, careful consideration of all class materials, and engagement with the class and your fellow students. Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Each exam and assignment you submit will require signing the CSU student honor pledge:

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

Department Statement on Copyright:

Please do not share material from this course in online, print or other media. Course material is the property of the instructor who developed the course. Materials authored by third parties and used in the course are also subject to copyright protections. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law and the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face disciplinary or legal action.



Classroom Conduct:

Students are required to act respectfully in the classroom at all times, any disruptive behavior that inhibits fellow-student learning will not be permitted and will constitute a one day removal from lecture/recitation; a second offense will require a formal meeting with the student and instructor. Such behavior includes holding conversations during lecture/recitation, any unauthorized cell phone, laptop, or tablet use, or other behavior which detracts from the class.

Accommodations and Tutoring Options:

All students are **highly** encouraged to take advantage of these extremely beneficial and costless resources.

- **Resources for Disabled Students:** Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the student's responsibility to disclose any learning disabilities. Please contact the instructor if a special accommodation is required. To request accommodations, students should contact Resources for Disabled Students at (970) 491-6385 or go to <http://rds.colostate.edu>. Documentation of disability is required and the RDS office will assist in this process.
- **Study Group:** Attending this **FREE** program will help you improve your understanding of course material while learning effective study techniques. All study groups are drop-in, so students can come as many times as they want. For more information and study group schedule, see Canvas or visit: <http://tilt.colostate.edu/learning/tutoring/studyGroups/index.cfm>
- **Writing Center:** Help with written assignments can be found at the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.colostate.edu>).

Schedule:

Note: This is a tentative schedule, its contents are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. The associated readings can be found on Canvas.

	<i>Lecture Topic(s):</i>	<i>Important Dates:</i>
Week One (Aug 20 – 24)	Introduction What is Economics? (I) What is Economics? (II)	
<i>Topic One: The Rhetoric of Economics</i>		
Week Two (Aug 27 – 01)	Introduction to Rhetoric “Four Master Tropes” “Rhetorical Tetrad”	
Week Three (Sept 03 – 07)	The Rhetoric of Heterodox and Orthodox Economics	Last Day to Drop Classes (09/05)

	What is Economic Pluralism? Pluralism vs Monism	
Week Four (Sept 10 – 14)	The Cult of Statistical Significance “Oomph” vs Precision Significance and the Law	
Week Five (Sept 17 – 21)	The Rhetoric of Socialism and Capitalism Socialism in the 21 st Century The End of Capitalism(?)	Exam One Due (09/24)
<i>Topic Two: Economics and Justice</i>		
Week Six (Sept 24 – 28)	Justice and the Virtues “Not By Prudence Alone” Economics and Morality	
Week Seven (Oct 01 – 05)	Virtues in the History of Economic Thought Smith and Bentham Rawls and Hayek	
Week Eight (Oct 08 – 12)	Economics and Capabilities Nussbaum and Sen Capabilities in Development	
Week Nine (Oct 15 – 19)	Ethics of Economics Why Ethics? Whose Ethics?	
Week Ten (Oct 22 – 26)	Applications of Ethics Experimental Ethics Ethics and Public Policy	Exam Two Due (10/29)
<i>Topic Three: Inequality and Distribution</i>		
Week Eleven (Oct 29 – 02)	The Wealth of Nations Bourgeois Virtues From Production to Distribution	
Week Twelve (Nov 05 – 09)	Rethinking the Market Universal Basic Income Federal Job Guarantee	
Week Thirteen (Nov 12 – 16)	Piketty’s Problem Wealth in the 21 st Century Piketty’s Detractors	
<i>Fall Break (Nov 17 – 25)</i>		
Week Fourteen (Nov 26 – 30)	Inequality and Firm Structure	



	Cooperative and the Case of Mondragon Cooperatives and Capitalism	
Week Fifteen (Dec 03 – 07)	Class Presentations Reflections on the Future	Exam Three Due (12/12)
Finals Week:	Final Exam: December 12 th , 4:10 – 6:10 pm	