General Course Information

Days: Mondays and Thursdays  
Time: 2:00pm – 3:20pm  
Room: Lindsay 26B  
Professor: Bryan Snyder  
Office: Rm G274 Adamian  
Office Hours: Mondays 11:00 => 12:20pm  
Thursdays 11:00 => 12:20pm

Office Phone: #781-891-2446  
E-mail address: bsnyder@bentley.edu  
Website: http://blackboard.bentley.edu/

Course Overview

Modern Economic Systems examines economic systems of the world, in both theory and practice. The approach will generally focus on encouraging a general understanding of how economic systems work and how economic theory interacts with government policy, history, and culture to explain economic performance. We will begin our analysis by establishing a historical context, exploring the transition from Feudalism to Capitalism. From there we will look at the emergence of several forms of Socialism and Soviet style Communism. From this broader analytical context we will then address the specific economies that exist today. These economies to be examined in detail will include:

- Several advanced market capitalist countries: the United States, France, Sweden, and Germany.
- The European Union and the current crisis of the “PIIGS.”
- “BRIICs” – Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia and China
- The former-socialist economies: the former Soviet Union (Russia), China and Cuba.
- East Asian economies: Japan, North and South Korea
- Islamic, Catholic, protestant, Confucian and Buddhist based economic systems.
- The Cooperatives of Robert Owen and Spain’s Mondragon

This course promises to be a fascinating look into a very dynamic and differentiated mix of countries attempting to engage in the “ordinary business of life” at a time when the global economy is anything but ordinary.

Arts and Science elective - International Focus
Prerequisites: EC111 & EC112  
Professor: Bryan Snyder, AAC 274, ext. 2446
Required Readings (There will be Four books that you must purchase for this class)

**Comparative Economics in a Transforming World Economy, Third Edition**

Title

Author By J. Barkley Rosser, Jr. and Marina V. Rosser

Publisher The MIT Press January 2018


**The Making of Economic Society (MOES)**


ISBN# 978-0136080695


**COURSESMArt ONLINE EDITION:**

The Making of Economic Society, Thirteenth Edition

by Robert L. Heilbroner; William Milberg eTextbook digital rental: 180 days

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Blackboard

This course will use our Blackboard website extensively. Each topic covered will typically have its own folder which will contain a Resource File which will contain all sorts of relevant materials to help you with the subject being discussed. Each Folder should also contain any Primary Documents which will be covered in class. Check this website frequently for up to the minute posting of class related materials and assignments!!!

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on two exams, A Class Presentation, FOUR Reaction Pieces and a significant term paper (Reaction Piece on Steroids). The mid-term exam will be on held October 3rd and cover all materials up to the date of the exam, in particular analysis of Market Capitalist and Socialist economic systems.

A substantial term paper on the subject of Worker Cooperatives: Owen vs. Mondragon will be due on November 18th. This is a very firm deadline as we will be discussing the subject during that class. Late papers will be dealt with …..Harshly. You have been warned.

The Final Exam will be held on Monday December 16th from 11:30am => 1:30pm
Quizzes

Quizzes will only occur in a **punitive fashion** if students are not prepared for class and are not covering the assigned material. There is a lot of reading in this class. It is imperative that you keep up! If students are not actively participating in the discussion of the subject matter…there will be many quizzes.

Attendance

*Is mandatory* and I fully expect students to be well prepared in order to understand the lecture. Your attendance is proportionate to your desire to actually pass this course. Please come to class prepared to participate. You must also have read the assigned material **BEFORE** each lecture as I will be referring to the text but often times diverging from it. You are responsible for all of the assigned reading. You are allocated THREE unexcused absences from this class after which I will incrementally adjust your grade downward. I need you here in class ….prepared…and ready to rock.

Plague and Pestilence .... Flu

There is a very distinct possibility that some time this semester we will be visited by plague and pestilence in the form of an innovative Flu. This promises to be loads of fun. I will relax my attendance standards, but will insist that you check in via e-mail to let me know your status and level of infirmity. I will send you the world famous “e-soup” confirming you absence and wishing you a speedy recovery. If you feel this flu coming on….fever….cough…et al….please stay home……drink plenty of fluids and rest. As for keeping up with the class assignments…..the **Class Calendar** is structured in such a way that you can cover all of the lecture materials in between bouts of delirium. If the plague falls during an exam period, we shall work around the problem….with great flexibility of schedule.

Class Decorum

**Punctuality:** I expect you to arrive **promptly** for class, prepared. In fact, I will insist upon this.

**Cell phones** will be turned off, as I reserve the right to answer any ringing phone in my classroom.

**Laptop computers and or Tablets:** I will no longer allow laptops to be used in my classroom. This privilege has been rudely abused by a few students and I find having to compete for your attention with a riveting game of solitaire or your vital e-mail……insulting. Thus….**No Laptops or Tablets.** Take copious handwritten notes.

Academic Integrity

*As a Bentley student, I promise to act honorably in my courses and my professional endeavors, adhering to both the letter and spirit of Bentley’s academic integrity system. I will neither take advantage of my classmates nor betray the trust of my professors. My work will be honest and transparent, and I will hold myself and my peers accountable to the highest ethical standards.*

This class will be conducted in full accordance with Bentley’s policies about academic integrity and the Bentley Honor Code. These can be found at: [http://www.bentley.edu/shandbook/Integrity/The_Bentley_Honor_Code.cfm](http://www.bentley.edu/shandbook/Integrity/The_Bentley_Honor_Code.cfm)

I have a zero tolerance policy for cheating and will “get medieval” on your GPA if you have the poor sense to actually engage in such behavior. I find it personally insulting….Don’t do it.

Disability Services

Bentley University abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which stipulate no student shall be denied the benefits of an education solely by reason of a disability. If you have a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom accommodations, please call the Office of Disability Services within the first 4 weeks of the semester to schedule an appointment. **The Office of Disability Services** is located in the Office of Academic Services (JEN 336, 781.891.2004). The Office of Disability Services is responsible for managing accommodations and services for all students with disabilities.

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**Introduction to Comparative Economics**

**Introduction to Political Economy**

Read: Preface and Chapter #1 The Political Economy Challenge to Mainstream Economics

**The Making of Economic Society**

**CETWE Chpt. #1 Understanding Economic Systems**

**The Making of Economic Society (MOES) Heilbroner/Milberg Chapter No.#1 The Economic Problem**

**IPE: Preface to the Eighth Edition &:**

**Chapter #1: The Political Economy Challenge to Mainstream Economics**

**Blackboard Folder**

**The New Traditional Economy: A New Perspective For Comparative Economics**
Rosser & Rosser April 1998

**WORK: Chapter #1: Introduction: The Unique Character of Work**

**A Theory of Justice – Rawls**
September 2\textsuperscript{nd}

CETWE Chpt. #1 \textit{Overview of Comparative Economics}

\textbf{The Making of Economic Society (MOES) Heilbroner/Milberg}
Chapter No.#1 The Economic Problem

\textbf{IPE: Preface to the Eighth Edition &:}

\textit{Chapter #1: The Political Economy Challenge to Mainstream Economics}

\textbf{Blackboard Folder}

The New Traditional Economy: A New Perspective For Comparative Economics
Rosser & Rosser April 1998

Sept. 5\textsuperscript{th}

CETWE Chpt. #1 \textit{How Do We Compare Economies?}

\textbf{MOES: Chpt.#2 pg. #13}

\textit{The Premarket Economy}

“The Bornstein 9”

Sept. 9\textsuperscript{th}

CETWE Chpt. #2 The Theory and Practice of Market Capitalism

\textbf{MOES: Chpt.#3 pg. #32}

\textit{The Emergence of Market Society}

\textit{(Know this chapter inside & out!!!!)}

\textbf{WORK: Chapter #2: Inequality at Work: Skills, Wages, and Productivity}

Sept. 12\textsuperscript{th}

MOES: Chpt.#4 pg. #54

\textit{The Industrial Revolution}

\textbf{IPE: Introduction to Political Economy (IPE) Chpt.# 2 – \textit{Adam Smith and the Philosophy of Limited Laissez-Faire}}

\textbf{WORK: Chapter #3: Gender at Work: Caring Labor}

\textit{Reaction Piece #1 Due}

\textit{Reaction Piece #2 Due}
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<td><strong>MOES:</strong> Chpt.#6.7.9 pg. #88</td>
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<td><strong>IPE:</strong> Chpt#5 John Maynard Keynes and the Turbulent Birth of Macroeconomics.</td>
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<td>Iran: The Struggle for a New Traditional Islamic Economy</td>
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**MOES:**

*The Golden Age of Capitalism*

MOES Chpt. # 9, Chpt#12

*Globalization and Economic Life*

MOES Chpt. # 11

*The Rise and Fall of Neo-liberalism and the Washington Consensus*

**IPE:**

*Social Class in American Capitalism*

IPE Chpt. #6

*John Kenneth Galbraith and the Theory of Social Balance*

IPE Chpt. #7

*U.S. Monopoly Capitalism: An Irrational System?*

**November 4th**

*The British Economic System- Clarke*

MOES Chpt.# 8

*Modern Capitalism Emerges in Europe*

The EU and the PIIGS

**November 7th**

*France: State Directed Dirigisme in a Free Market World*
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<td>Sweden: Crisis and Reform of the Capitalist Welfare State</td>
<td>The Middle Way: Swedish Social Democracy</td>
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<td>Chpt. #11 Post-Soviet States: Alternative Paths of Transition and Divergent Models of Market Economies</td>
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**WORK:** Chapter #5: Beyond Managerial Strategies: Worker Cooperatives
**November 25th**

CETWE Chpt. #19

*Brazil: The Search for Sustainable Development and Socioeconomic Equality.*

**Brazil**

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**November 28th**

Thanksgiving!

*(No Class!)*

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**December 2nd**

CETWE Chpt. #15

*India: The Elephant Walks*

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**December 5th**

CETWE Chpt. #13

*The Chinese Economic System*

China’s Socialist Market Economy: The Sleeping Giant Wakes

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**December 9th**

MOES: Chapter #11 *The Emergence of a Global Economic Society*

Chapter #13 Problems and Possibilities

Blackboard Folder: *Neo-Liberalism*

**December 16th**

Monday

FINAL EXAM!

from 11:30am => 1:30pm

**WORK:** Chapter #7:

*Conclusion: Future Worlds of Work*