SYLLABUS ECONOMICS 7600-001

This class examines the history of economic theories. We begin by discussing the historical and contemporary differences in the way in which theorists have seen (and currently see) the scope and method of economic theory . During the first two weeks of the course the instructor will lecture on these issues and on the main general traditions that he believes to have emerged in economic theory from the mid-18th century until the present. The instructor will then discuss the theorist that he believes to be the fountainhead of most economic theory over that period: Adam Smith.

The reading assignments for the course are from E K Hunt and Mark Lautzenheiser History Of Economic Thought: Chapters 1 through9; Chapter10,pp. 264 through 283; and Chapters 11 through 14.

Some of this reading is very difficult and should be done very carefully. Each class period, one student will be assigned to summarize all or part of a chapter and then all of the students will discuss the material in that chapter.

Each student will be expected to write a research paper on a small part of one book by one of the economic theorists that we study. The paper should be based primarily on original sources (one based primarily on secondary sources will be unsatisfactory ) and should be done in a formal, scholarly format.

The grades for the course will be based on the class participation and on the research papers. The economic theorists that the student may choose to do the papers on are: (a) Smith (b) Malthus’ Principles of Economics (c) Ricardo (d) Mill (e) Marx (f)Walras (g)Marshall and (h)Veblen.

Please get approval from the instructor on the topic and scope of your paper before starting your research.