

EC 413 HETERODOX APPROACHES TO ECONOMICS

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The aim of this course is to revisit a set of economic concepts that are being extensively used in the economics curriculum--but with a critical stance that concentrates on philosophical and methodological considerations. After making a quick *tour d'horizon* on the philosophies and methodologies of economics, we will consider the six themes that structure the syllabus. These themes will provide the concrete contexts in which alternative economic approaches can be introduced. The format of the course will encourage, and require, active participation.

The readings are alphabetized. The entries with two stars (**) are required reading for everyone. Volunteers will be responsible for representing the readings with single star (*) in the classroom discussion.

1. The economy as a heterogeneous space.

In this section we will discuss how to conceptualize the economy as an articulation of different modes of distribution (reciprocity, exchange, and redistribution) and different modes of production relations (wage-labor, independent, slavery, feudal, cooperative).

**Adaman, Fikret and Yahya Madra. "Theorizing the 'Third Sphere:' A Critique of the Persistence of the 'Economistic Fallacy.'" *Journal of Economic Issues*, forthcoming.

*Arrow, Kenneth J. "Gifts and Exchange." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1 (1972): 343-362. Reprinted in *Altruism, Morality, and Economic Theory*, edited by E.S. Phelps. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1975: 13-28.

**Polanyi, Karl. "Forms of Integration and Supporting Structures." In *The Livelihood of Man*, edited by Harry Pearson. New York: Academic Press, 1977: 35-43.

*Buğra, Ayşe. "Political and Moral Implications of Reciprocity Networks in Modern Societies." In *Economy and Society: Money, Capitalism and Transition*, edited by F. Adaman and P. Devine. Montreal: Blackrose, 2001: 382-400.

*Arvidson, Enid. "Los Angeles: A Postmodern Class Mapping." In *Class and its Others*, edited by J. K. Gibson-Graham, Stephen A. Resnick and Richard D. Wolff. Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press, 2000.

**van der Veen, Marjolein. "Beyond Slavery and Capitalism: Producing Class Difference in the Sex Industry." In *Class and its Others*, edited by J. K. Gibson-Graham, Stephen A. Resnick and Richard D. Wolff. Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press, 2000.

2. Different notions of 'economic value'.

Is economics the science of 'price'? In this section, we will begin with questioning whether Maurice Dobb's famous distinction between objective and subjective theories of value still hold. We will survey utility-based, preference-based, labor-embodied, Sraffian, institutionalist, and socially contingent theories of value.

*Amariglio, Jack and David F. Ruccio. "Modern Economics: The case of the disappearing body?" *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 26, No. 1 (2002): 81-103.

**Dobb, Maurice. *Political Economy and Capitalism: Some Essays in Economic Tradition*. New York: International Publishers, 1945. (Chapter 1, "The Requirements of a Theory of Value.")

*Elson, Diane. "The Value Theory of Labour." In *Value: The Representation of Labour in Capitalism*, edited by Diane Elson. London:CSE Books, 1979: 115-180.

**Garnett, Robert F., Jr. "Postmodernism and Theories of Value: New grounds for Institutional/Marxist dialogue?" *Journal of Economic Issues* 33, No.4 (December 1999): 817-834.

**Mehta, Judith. "Meaning in the Context of Bargaining Games–Narratives in Opposition." In *Economics and Language*, edited by Willie Henderson, Tony Dudley-Evans, and Roger Backhouse. London and New York: Routledge, 1993.

**Roberts, Bruce. "The Visible and the Measurable: Althusser and the Marxian Theory of Value." In *Postmodern Materialism and the Future of Marxist Theory: Essays in the Althusserian Tradition*, edited by Antonio Callari and David F. Ruccio. Hanover and London: Wesleyan University Press, 1996.

*Swales, John M. "The Paradox of Value: Six Treatments in Search of the Reader." In *Economics and Language*, edited by Willie Henderson, Tony Dudley-Evans, and Roger Backhouse. London and New York: Routledge, 1993.

3. The economic and the cultural, or the question of 'the individual'.

In this section, we will discuss the ways in which different theories incorporate the considerations of culture to their analyses of the economy. We will survey rational actor, evolutionary game theoretic, institutionalist, and anti-essentialist theories. Do we have one single form of rationality or multiple forms of rationality? The case study will be the different conceptualization of 'the individual subject'.

**Amariglio, Jack, and Antonio Callari. "Marxian Value Theory and the Problem of the Subject: The Role of Commodity Fetishism." In *Fetishism as Cultural Discourse*, edited by E. Apter and W. Pietz. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993: 186-216.

*Bowles, Samuel. "Endogenous Preferences: The Cultural Consequences of Markets and Other Economic Institutions." *Journal of Economic Literature* 36, No. 1 (March 1998): 75-111.

**Hodgson, Geoffrey M. "The Ubiquity of Habits and Rules." *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 21, No. 6 (November 1997): 663-684.

*Lyons, Bruce, and Judith Mehta. "Contracts, Opportunism and Trust: Self-interest and Social Orientation." *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 21, No. 2 (March 1997): 239-257.

**Sen, Amartya K. "Rational Fools: A Critique of the Behavioral Foundations of Economic Theory." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 6 (1977): 317-344. Reprinted in *The Gift: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*, edited by Aafke E. Komter. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 1996.

4. The economic and the political, or the question of 'the firm'.

In this section, we will survey the different ways in which economic processes are shaped by and shape the political processes. Two distinct ways of theorizing the relationship between the two are 'economizing the political' and 'politicizing the economic'. These two approaches have radically different consequences for our understanding of the relationship between the economy and the polity. The case study will be 'the firm' as an economic and a political site at the same time.

*Amariglio, Jack and David Ruccio. "The (Dis)orderly Process of Capitalist Competition." In *Marxian Economics: A Reappraisal. Essays on Volume 3 of Capital. Volume 1: Method, Value and Money*, edited by R. Bellofiore. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998b: 94-108.

**Bowles, Samuel and Herbert Gintis. "Contested Exchange: Political Economy and Modern Economic Theory." *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings* 78 (1988): 145-150.

**Coase, Ronald H. "The Nature of the Firm." *Economica* 4 (1937): 386-405.

*Gibson-Graham, J. K. and Phillip O'Neill. "Exploring a New Class Politics of the Enterprise." In *Re/presenting Class: Essays in Postmodern Marxism*, edited by J. K. Gibson-Graham, S. Resnick, R. D. Wolff. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2001.

**Resnick, Stephen and Richard Wolff. *Knowledge and Class: A Marxian Critique of Political Economy*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1987.

5. The economic and the natural, or the question of 'valuing the nature'.

In this section, we will survey the different ways in which the economic processes and the natural processes interact with one another. Different conceptualizations of the natural processes and their effectivity over the economic processes lead to different environmental regimes and different methods of negotiating with the environmental degradation. We will survey Neoclassical, Institutional, and Marxist perspectives.

**Adaman, Fikret and Begum Ozkaynak: "The Economics-Environment Relationship: Some Critical Remarks on the Neoclassical, Institutional, and Marxist Approaches". *Studies in Political Economy*, forthcoming.

**Vlachou, Adriana. "Nature and Class: A Marxian Value Analysis." In *Re/presenting Class: Essays in Postmodern Marxism*, edited by J. K. Gibson-Graham, S. Resnick, R. D. Wolff. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2001.

6. Globalization and its discontents: Strategies for economic transformation.

Globalization is a terrain of struggle. Different economic theories conceptualize it in different ways, and new social movements have different visions of globalization. And most of the time they are in contradiction with one another. What are the problems with new social movements? What are the problems with the mainstream and heterodox theories of globalization? Is globalization simply an economic phenomenon, or is it economic, political, cultural and natural at the same time?

**Community Economies Collective. "Imagining and Enacting Noncapitalist Futures." *Socialist Review* 28, No. 3&4 (2001): 93-135.

**DeMartino, George. *Global Economy, Global Justice: Theoretical Objections and Policy Alternatives to Neoliberalism*. London and New York: Routledge, 2000.

Assessment

Take-home exam: %25

Response papers: %25

Discussion-participation: %10

Term paper: %40

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