

Economics and Liberty
Dr. Kurt W. Rotthoff

ECON 3437

Friday 10:00-1:00, Room JH 109

Office: Jubilee Hall 674

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:15-10:45 am and by appointment

Email: Kurt.Rotthoff@shu.edu

Phone: Office, (973) 761-9102; Cell, (330) 705-9017

Website: <http://pirate.shu.edu/~rotthoku/>

Secretary: Dahnisha Thomas

dahnisha.thomas@shu.edu

(973) 761-7723

“The mission of the Stillman School of Business is to enrich each student’s life through an ethics-centered education focusing on transforming concepts into business practice.”

Course description:

This course is designed to increase the students’ ability to apply their problem solving skills to issues in our world and how the government and property rights interact in this world. This course will have a heavy reading load including academic articles, news publications, and other media outlets (such as EconTalk). These readings will be discussed in detail, relating economics, politics, and their combination in the political economy. The course will promote interaction between students, faculty, and guest speakers to discuss these resources in detail and how they affect our lives and the world (this course will work on ‘change management’ and ‘communication’). Prerequisites: ECON 1402, 1403, and Instructor Approval.

Text: Anything required will be provided

Suggested Blogs to read: Marginal Revolution, Café Hayek, Nudge, Freakonomics, Supply and Demand, and Greg Mankiw’s Blog

Academic and Professional Integrity:

‘All forms of dishonesty, whether by act or omission, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism and knowingly furnishing false information to the University, are prohibited.’

All graded work must be your own (unless specified that working with others is acceptable). This includes all quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to ensure that your behavior conforms fully to the spirit of the academic integrity statement. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. Failing to do so will be taken seriously and result in a failure of the course. This will also be reported to the Dean.

Attendance:

For this class attendance is required, discussions can only occur if people are here. If you are missing a class you must let me know and I will give you something so you can show the readings have been done. If you miss more than two classes your letter grade can fall by one letter grade per class.

I will be in class on time, so the same is expected of you. In the rare event I am not, you are to give me 15 minutes (according to nist.time.gov). If I have not arrived by that time class is dismissed for the day. Also, please make sure to turn off all cell phones or other noise making devices during class.

<u>Grading:</u>	<u>EXAM</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>
50% Exams:	Mid-Term	20%
	FINAL EXAM	30%
50% Class Participation, Notes, and Homework:		<u>50%</u>
	Total:	100%

Grading scale:

As an idea of what you might expect, I tentatively offer the following, assuming an 85 average:

92-100 A, 90-91 A-, 86-89 B+, 82-85 B, 80-81 B-, 76-79 C+, 72-75 C, 70-71 C-,
66-69 D+, 60-65 D, <60 F

Make-up assignments:

If any classes are to be missed, including those days that include exams, present a legitimate excuse. When an excuse is approved, an alternative assignment will be given. The final is required, no final = no pass.

Grades Finalized

All grades completed during the semester are to be finalized by the last day of class. This means that after the last day of the course, grades received throughout the semester can no longer be changed. This also means that after this date no credit, other than the final exam, will be given.

Class Participation, Notes, and Homework:

This class is interactive; as such class participation is required. The failure to participate will result in a loss of your participation grade. Notes on the reading will be kept and turned in each week. Homework assignments must be turned in on time. Any late work will lose one point a minute until its value is zero.

Work & Skills

The course requires a fundamental understanding of Economics. You will need a solid grasp of principles of Economics I and II (ECON 1402 and 1403). A principles text may be useful to refresh your memory from time to time. Basic math skills may be used. Statistical concepts will also be introduced and used to analyze data, so a prior course in statistics is helpful but not required.

Recordings

No one is permitted to record any part of this class without prior consent from the instructor. This includes photos, video recording, voice recordings, or any other form of recording. If permission is granted to record a portion of this course, it can only be used by the student in the course; it cannot be shared, posted, etc. for anyone else to use or see.

Important dates:

Last day to Add/Drop	January 22 nd
Withdraw date without consent	February 22 nd
First Exam	March 1 st
Withdraw date with consent	March 8 th
FINAL EXAM	May 9 th 10:10-12:10

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 14	Syllabus - Intro
Jan 21	Reading Day!
Jan 28	Bodies
Feb 4	CST
Feb 11	Reading Day!
Feb 18	The Morality of Capitalism
Feb 25	(Exam)
Mar 4	The Constitution
Mar 11	Spring Break!
Mar 18	Optimal Tax Policy
Mar 25	Voting
Apr 1	Reading Day!
Apr 8	Drugs and Crime
Apr 15	Easter!
Apr 22	Education and Fungibility
Apr 29	'Good Profit' (Book)

Note: The official schedule, along with all readings, will be posted on my website. Make sure you check the website to stay up to date.