

ECONOMICS 30243
Contending Perspectives in Economics
Dr. John T. Harvey (Fall 2009)

PURPOSE: A survey of major theoretical approaches in economics today, with emphasis on the unique insights and applications of each approach, the theoretical underpinnings of enduring disagreements among professional economists, and the process of ongoing debate and cross-fertilization among these contending perspectives.

PREREQUISITES: At least three semester hours credit in economics with a grade of 'C' or better.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After the course, the student should be able to explain the basic premises of each major school of thought in modern economics, know how those premises lead to the conclusions and policy recommendations of each paradigm, and trace the main threads of contemporary debates.

REQUIREMENTS: Each student will have three opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of the course material. The relative weights are as follows:

First exam	30 points
Second exam	30 points
Final exam	<u>+40 points</u>
	100 points

The final is cumulative (though not over ALL the material we covered on exams one and two). Grades will be assigned as follows (parenthetical references are to the **TCU Undergraduate Studies Bulletin** definition of the performance necessary for the assignment of each grade):

100 to 89.5 points	A (Exceptional)
89.4 to 79.5 points	B (Superior)
79.4 to 69.5 points	C (Satisfactory)
69.4 to 59.5 points	D (Poor)
59.4 or less	F (Failure)

Exams are essay and will test students' knowledge of the material covered in lecture and the reading, require them to construct coherent analyses of events or trends using the appropriate framework, and use evidence appropriately when asked to analyze novel situations.

GRADING ON IMPROVEMENT: I have always thought it fair to raise a student's grade when she showed significant improvement over the course of the semester. However, I am (for the reasons stated above) very uncomfortable with arbitrarily determining the bonus. Oh happy day! I have come up with a formula to use in this regard! Get out your calculator...

First off, because it is cumulative and will reflect your knowledge of **all** the course material, improvement is linked to your final exam score. To determine your *improvement bonus* first convert all your scores into percentages (e.g., 90% instead of 27/30). Then subtract your lower of your first two exam scores from your final exam percentage and divide that total by 10. That is your bonus, and it will be added to your course total. Note that theoretically the bonus can vary from 10 percentage points (with a 100% on the final and a 0% on either exam one or exam two) to 0 (with a final exam score that does not exceed your lowest score).

ABSENCE POLICY: The TCU Faculty/Staff Handbook requires that faculty be aware of the attendance of students and, if necessary, report frequent absences. In this class "frequent" will be defined as three or more.

REMINDER: This course is required of all Economics majors and they must earn a C or better in order to count it towards their economics major.

FINAL EXAM: Our final is scheduled for Thursday, December 17 at 8:00am. Only those students with more than two final exams in a twenty-four hour period are permitted to reschedule any finals. **According to University policy, the student must prove that this exceptions applies and this must be done prior to the last week of regular class sessions before final examinations.**

MAKEUP EXAMS: Our class will meet on the last regularly scheduled day of class (Tuesday, December 8) at our regular class time to take any makeups necessary. **The student need not contact the instructor with an excuse to take a makeup.** Simply miss the regular exam day and you are entitled to take the makeup. Only one exam may be missed in this manner, however. Before any other such incidents I must be contacted **before the time of the exam.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY: I do my utmost to see to it that those who are studying hard in my course get full credit for their work and that they are not cheated by classmates. I do this primarily by removing temptation and closely monitoring all exams. However, in the event that my vigilance is not sufficient and a case of academic dishonesty does come to my attention, I give my word to the honest members of the class that the offending party will be prosecuted to the full extent allowed by University policy. Speaking of the latter, section 3.4 of the Code of Student Conduct¹ defines academic misconduct as including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission, complicity in academic misconduct, and bearing false witness (definitions of each are available from the link in footnote 1).

Students are not the only ones who should be held to a moral standard in the process of determining course grades. It is equally vital to the integrity of the course that the instructor maintain the highest level of honesty. I promise everyone that, first, no student will have a grade changed simply because they made inquiries regarding my evaluation. Nor will someone in our class receive a higher grade on the basis of "need" (to keep a scholarship, to stay in school, to receive Economics credit, to not be killed by parents, etc.). If those are to be criteria for the determination of grades, then they should appear in the syllabus as assignments. Furthermore, the exams will be graded blindly (i.e., no names) and, at the end of the semester, the one and only place I will look to calculate students' grades will be their cumulative performance on the tests. The standard I will apply in determining letter grades absolutely will be the one listed above, and **I promise that it will be the same for everyone.** Finally, I feel very strongly that it is each student's right to understand how their grade was determined, and I am always happy to fully explain any questions you may have.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Among my responsibilities is ensuring that students find the classroom environment one in which it is easy to concentrate on the material I am presenting. Fortunately, in my experience, the VAST majority of students already know exactly how to conduct themselves in a college classroom. However, if you find that someone's behavior is distracting you, please feel free to inform me and I'll take care of the situation. In the meantime, I'll do my best to keep disturbances (talking, in particular) to a minimum. **Everybody pays the same tuition and you have every right to be able to focus on the lecture.**

In terms of the student-professor relationship, I operate on the assumption that I am dealing with adults who deserve my respect as such and who understand that they are responsible for their actions. I expect the same in return and have only rarely been disappointed in this. One area where I have experienced frequent problems, however, is in terms of student appointments. I make great efforts to meet with students at their convenience and am happy to do so. This is part of my job and I enjoy it. But, you would be surprised at how many students come late to appointments or forget them completely (I literally had a semester during which not a single student ever bothered to show up for the appointment they had made!).

¹The Code of Student Conduct can be found here: <http://www.sa.tcu.edu/handbook/code.htm>.

BLUE BOOKS FOR EXAMS: I would appreciate it if you would purchase Blue Books for each of the exams. Please have these to me by Tuesday, September 22. If you do, I'll add 0.5 pts to your final course grade!

CALCULATORS AND TRANSLATORS: You will never need a calculator for my exams. Those students for whom English is not their native language may bring a dictionary, but not an electronic one. Please let me see the dictionary before class.

READINGS: The main reading is Douglas Mair and Anne G. Miller, editors, **A Modern Guide to Economic Thought: An Introduction to Comparative Schools of Thought in Economics**, Aldershot, UK: Edward Elgar, 1991. Others will be made available.

PICTURE DAY: By golly gosh, you are paying a lot of money to come to TCU (well, someone is)—you deserve to have your professors know your name! So, on the second or third day of class I'll be taking all your pictures (to which you'll add your names later) so that I can study, study, study. By exam one I should know everyone's name AND which face it goes with!

DISABILITIES STATEMENT: Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. If you require accommodations for a disability, please contact the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities in the Center for Academic Services, located in Sadler Hall 11. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at 817-257-7486.

Adequate time must be allowed to arrange accommodations and accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the academic term for which they are seeking accommodations. Each eligible student is responsible for presenting relevant, verifiable, professional documentation and/or assessment reports to the Coordinator. Guidelines for documentation may be found at <http://www.acs.tcu.edu/DISABILITY.HTM>.

Students with emergency medical information or needing special arrangements in case a building must be evacuated should discuss this information with their instructor/professor as soon as possible.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Office: Somewhere in the Economics Building (can't remember the number!)
Phone: 257-7230 or 257-6235 (office—the latter is the direct line); 924-9016 (home: please do not call here past 8:00pm or during The Simpsons!). Hey, I got a cell phone! (817)223-4497
E-mail: j.harvey@tcu.edu (note: you'll hit my spam filter if it's your first note to me)

B.A. Economics and Political Science, U. of Tennessee 1983.

M.A. Economics, U. of Tennessee 1986.

Ph.D. Economics (international, macroeconomics, history of economics), U. of Tennessee 1987.

Owner, General Manager, Coach, and Fan Club President of the Westcliff Colts, the Fort Worth Football League World Champions in 1989, 1992, 1994, 1997, and 1998.

Retired 1999-2003.

Owner, General Manager, Coach, and Fan Club President of the Heidenheim Panzers, the DAK Football League World Champions in 2005 and 2008.

**ASSIGNMENTS
WEEK**

TOPIC

#1 end Aug 27	Introduction to course (grading, assignments, philosophy, etc.)
#2 end Sep 3	Philosophy and Methodology of Economics
#3 end Sep 10	The Neoclassical School
#4 end Sep 17	" " " "
#5 end Sep 24	The Marxist School *****EXAM ONE***** (Sep 24)
#6 end Oct 1	The Austrian School
#7 end Oct 8	The Post Keynesian School
#8 end Oct 20	" " " "
#9 end Oct 27	" " " "
#10 end Nov 3	" " " " *****EXAM TWO***** (Nov 3)
#11 end Nov 10	The Institutionalist School
#12 end Nov 17	" " " "
#13 end Nov 24	New Institutionalism
#14 end Dec 3	Feminist Economics
#15 end Dec 8	*****Makeup Exams***** (see above) *****Study Days***** (Dec 11, 12) *****FINAL EXAM***** (see above)