Syllabus
ECON-325-001
Radical Economics

12 noon-1:15 TuTh, MEBB 1106
Fall 2013
Professor Dalton

Office: MEBB 3222
Hours: 9:30 - 11:00, TuTh
or by appointment
E-mail: allendalton@boisestate.edu
Webpage: http://cobe.boisestate.edu/allendalton/fall-2013-radical-economics/

PREREQUISITES
Admission to COBE or B.A. Economics major or B.A. Economics, Social Studies, Secondary Education Emphasis major or Economics, Social Science, Secondary Education Minor, ECON 201 and ECON 202 (Principles of Macroeconomics and Microeconomics).

UNIVERSITY REQUIRED SYLLABUS STATEMENT:
Disability Accomodation
Students with disabilities needing accommodations to fully participate in this class should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). All accommodations MUST be approved through the DRC. Please stop by Administration 114 or call 208-426-1583 to make an appointment with a disability specialist. To learn more about the accommodation process, visit our website at http://drc.boisestate.edu

COBE REQUIRED SYLLABUS STATEMENTS:
Statement of Shared Values
Boise State University upholds the following values as the foundation for a civil and nurturing environment. Campus community members and all who are part of COBE are expected to adhere to the following values:

  Academic Excellence – engage in our own learning and participate fully in the academic community’s pursuit of knowledge.
  Caring – show concern for the welfare of others.
  Citizenship – uphold civic virtues and duties that prescribe how we ought to behave in a self-governing community by obeying laws and policies, volunteering in the community, and staying informed on issues.
  Fairness – expect equality, impartiality, openness and due process by demonstrating a balanced standard of justice without reference to individual bias.
  Respect – treat people with dignity regardless of who they are and what they believe. A respectful person is attentive, listens well, treats others with consideration and doesn’t resort to intimidation, coercion or violence to persuade.
  Responsibility – take charge of our choices and actions by showing accountability and not shifting blame or taking improper credit. We will pursue excellence with diligence, perseverance, and continued improvement.
  Trustworthiness – demonstrate honesty in our communication and conduct while managing ourselves with integrity and reliability.
COBE Core Objectives

Students in this class will learn or practice the following COBE Core Curriculum concepts, methods, and skills:

1. Understand and apply analytical and disciplinary concepts and methods related to business and economics:
   - 1.3. Economics

2. Communicate effectively:
   - 2.1. Write messages and documents that are clear, concise, and compelling
   - 2.2. Give oral presentations that use effective content, organization, and delivery

3. Solve problems, including unstructured problems, related to business and economics

4. Use effective teamwork and collaboration skills

5. Resolve ethical issues related to business and economics

TEXTS AND STUDY MATERIALS

Required texts for this course are:

Chris Matthew Sciabarra, Marx, Hayek, and Utopia, 1995
Crispin Sartwell, Against the State, 2008

Other readings will be assigned or recommended during the semester; those which are not available from the internet will be distributed via your Boise State email address.

Powerpoint slides for some lectures will be accessible on the net via the course webpage. I do not use Blackboard, so please check the course webpage for course information.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND FOCUS

The course content of most economic courses is dominated by a particular approach to both positive and normative questions. On the positive side, economic study is dominated by Neoclassical microeconomics and New Keynesian macroeconomics. On the normative side, economic study begins with an implicit defense of existing political-social economic arrangements. Courses in radical economics are meant to question the foundations of both positive and normative economics.

The focus of this course will be on the two major alternatives in radical political economy: Marxism and anarchism. Both the positive economics (heterodox economics) and alternative institutional arrangements for addressing socio-economic issues (heterodox political economy) of these two alternatives will be addressed. The student is encouraged to go beyond Marxism and anarchism and discover other variants of radical economics.
At the conclusion of the course, the student should have a basic understanding and appreciation of heterodox economics and heterodox political economy.

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS
Students are expected to read the appropriate readings prior to lecture and discussion. Each class will begin with the interrogatory: “Are there any questions?” This is the student’s opportunity to ask questions over material previously covered, about the material under current discussion, or general economic matters. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner amenable to the learning process, treating one another with respect. Students are encouraged to form study groups among themselves, assist one another in mastering material, and provide one another with missed notes.

Please read the handout on Classroom Conduct and Expectations that appears on the course website.

GRADING
The final course grade will be based upon
(1) Writing assignments totaling 400 points;
(2) Class participation (1/3 primary discussant) worth 300 points; and
(3) three exams worth 300 points.

Total graded points are 1000. The following grading scale will be used:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>965 – 1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>895 – 964</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>865 – 894</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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WRITING ASSIGNMENTS
All writing assignments are to be double-spaced, typed, and in font size no larger than 12. Margins should be 1” on top, bottom, and both sides. Each writing assignment must have a separate title (cover) page, endnote page (if appropriate), and bibliography page (if appropriate).

Have someone else, preferably someone with good writing and verbal skills, proof-read your paper prior to turning it in. Don’t rely on spell and grammar check! Having someone else read the paper will also highlight areas where you are assuming knowledge on the part of the reader that perhaps should not be assumed, as well as pointing out gaps in the arguments or ambiguous phrasing.

All writing assignments are to be submitted both as a digital copy (to the instructor’s email address) and as a hard copy.

You may turn in any combination of writing assignments that total 400 points. There are two basic types of papers: (1) Research – worth 200 points each, and (2) “Think-pieces” – worth 100 points each.
You may turn in (a) 2 Research papers, (b) 4 “think-pieces,” or (c) 2 “think-pieces” plus 1 Research paper to meet the writing assignment requirement.

**DO NOT USE “OPEN SOURCE” INTERNET SOURCES AS REFERENCED SOURCES IN PAPERS.** You should always be wary of “open source” internet source or any internet source which is not clearly identified as to its authorship or provenance; an example of the former is *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)) and an example of the latter is the entry on Turgot from Question.com ([http://www.question.com/link/Turgot-A.html](http://www.question.com/link/Turgot-A.html)) which is actually a plagiarized entry from The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th ed. Copyright © 2004, Columbia University Press.

**RESEARCH PAPERS**
There are two basic research papers: (1) Paper on Heterodox Economics and (2) Paper on Heterodox Political Economy. These papers are to show independent research into a heterodox school or heterodox economist outside of those covered in class.

**PAPER ON HETERODOX ECONOMICS**
Excluding the title page, endnote page(s), and bibliography, the paper is to be 10-12 pages in length. The paper should draw on at least 6 sources, of which at least 4 are not from the internet.

This paper is to address an issue relating to heterodox positive economics. Examples of such a paper would be: (1) A critique of a particular aspect of orthodox economics and a defense of a heterodox alternative; (2) An important contribution that heterodox economics can make to orthodox economics that would improve our understanding of the economy; (3) An overview of a heterodox school, identifying the main differences in methodology and understanding between the school and orthodox economics; (4) The major contributions of a particular heterodox economist. Topic choice should be approved on or before Thursday, September 19 and a brief outline of your paper is due on or before Thursday, October 3. **This paper is due Thursday, October 24.**

**PAPER ON HETERODOX POLITICAL ECONOMY**
Excluding the title page, endnote page(s), and bibliography, the paper is to be 10-12 pages in length. The paper should draw on at least 6 sources, of which at least 4 are not from the internet.

This paper is to address an issue relating to heterodox political economy. Examples of such a paper would be: (1) A critique of a particular policy associated with orthodox economics and a defense of a heterodox alternative; (2) An overview of the ideas of a non-Marxist socialist political economist; (3) An overview of the ideas of an Anarchist (not covered in class); (4) A discussion of the philosophical/epistemological foundations of a heterodox school in comparison with orthodox economics; (5) A defense of an alternative institutional framework for organizing economic activity; (6) A critical consideration of a speculative fiction book in light of heterodox political economy. A list of novels appropriate for such a paper is posted on the course webpage. Topic choice should be approved on or before Tuesday, October 29 and a brief outline of your paper is due on or before Thursday, November 14. **This paper is due Thursday, December 5.**
“THINK-PIECES”
Excluding the title page and possible endnote page(s), each “think-piece” is to be 5-6 pages in length. These papers are not research papers, so a bibliography and sources are typically unnecessary.

Each paper is to be a comment on an idea or argument presented in class or covered in the class readings. This is not a research paper nor is it a regurgitation of what we have covered in class. The topic for each paper is up to you; choose something that interests you and you believe you have something to contribute. The paper is your response to an idea or argument presented in class; it is your contribution to the conversation on the topic. The paper is to be a reasoned argument in response. Better papers will be characterized by uniqueness, rigor, and clarity.

The paper due dates are (1) Thursday, September 19, (2) Thursday, October 24, (3) Thursday, November 14, and (4) Thursday, December 5.

CLASS PARTICIPATION
The class participation grade (300 points) will center upon student reading and discussing selections from the assigned readings. One third (100 points) of the total will be based upon being the primary discussant of an assigned reading. Each student will be assigned primary responsibility for at least two readings/chapters during the semester. All students should be prepared for discussion!

An excellent description of how to increase your class-participation grade, “How to Get an ‘A’ on Class Participation,” authored by Drs. Lichtenstein and Reynolds, is provided on the course webpage.

EXAMS
There will be 3 exams, each worth 100 points. The tentative dates for the first two exams are Thursday, September 26 and Thursday, October 31. The third exam will be given during the final examination period, Tuesday, December 17, 12 noon – 2 pm.

RESOURCES
There are a wide variety of resources available to the student of radical economics. A familiarity with these resources will broaden and deepen your experience in this class. A list of websites and texts may be found on the course webpage.

MAKE-UP POLICY
Make-up exams will be given only for documented reasons, and only if the instructor is (1) notified by email prior to the absence, and (2) supporting documentation for the absence is presented upon return to class. Make-ups will not be provided for any other assignment, except in the event of extended, documented illness.

AUTHORIZED “EXTRA-CREDIT” OPPORTUNITIES
Up to 39 points (3.9% of total points) may be earned by attending authorized extra-credit opportunities on campus, featuring off-campus speakers. Four such opportunities are
available for the Fall 2013 semester for this class. Attendance at each will be worth 13 points. Three of the four opportunities have been identified:

October 3 (evening) – Distinguished Lecture Series: Prof. Jonathan Spence
October 14 (evening) – Brandt Lecture: Prof. Richard Epstein
October 18 (evening) – Students for Liberty Lecture: Prof. Steve Horwitz

Additional details for these lectures, as well as the fourth “extra credit” opportunity, will be announced in class.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

September 19 – Approval deadline for Heterodox Economics Paper
First Think-piece Due

September 26 – 1st Exam

October 3 – Brief Outline of Heterodox Economics Paper Due

October 24 – Heterodox Economics Paper Due
Second Think-piece Due

October 29 – Approval deadline for Heterodox Political Economy Paper

October 31 – 2nd Exam

November 14 – Brief Outline of Heterodox Political Economy Paper Due
Third Think-piece Due

December 5 – Heterodox Political Economy Paper Due
Fourth Think-piece Due

December 17 – 3rd Exam; 12 noon – 2pm

GENERAL POLICES
There are no adjustments of dates except for those who are engaged in university sponsored activities. There are no extra credit projects beyond those listed above. An incomplete will be allowed for the class only if a 70% or better average is achieved through the paper due November 14. Be aware that to receive an incomplete requires the completion of a contract with a date certain for completion of class requirements. Withdrawal from class is the responsibility of the student. Last day to drop “with a W” or completely withdraw from the university is October 4. The instructor does not initiate administrative withdrawals.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS
This outline may be adjusted as the course unfolds. Students will be notified when additional required or recommended readings are added to the syllabus; additional readings will either be posted on-line at the course webpage or handed out in class.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS
I. **Course Introduction – Why Radical Economics?**
   Prychitko, “Introduction,” (handout)

II. **Taking Political Economy Seriously**
   Buchanan, “*Equality as Fact and Norm*”
   Axelrod and Hamilton, “*The Evolution of Cooperation*”
   Bowles and Gintis, “*The Origins of Human Cooperation*”
   Henrich, et.al., “*In Search of Homo Economicus…*”
   Buchanan, “*Politics, Policy, and Pigovian Margins*”

III. **Orthodox Economics and Orthodox Political Economy – A Brief Review**

IV. **An Overview of Heterodox Economics and Political Economy**
   Hahnel, *The ABCs of Political Economy*, ch. 1 and 2 (handouts)

V. **Knowledge and Market Processes**
   Hayek, “*The Use of Knowledge in Society*”

VI. **The Labor Theory of Value and the “Socialist Tradition”**
   Ricardo, *Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*, ch. 1 and 5
   Hodgskin, *Labour Defended Against the Claims of Capital*

VII. **Marx**
   Marx, “*On the Jewish Question*”
   Marx, “*Private Property and Communism*”
   Marx and Engels, “*Manifesto of the Communist Party*”
   Marx, “*Primitive Accumulation*,” Part VIII, Capital, Volume I, ch. 26 -32
   Marx, *Wage-Labour and Capital*
   Marx, *Value, Price and Profit*
   Sciabarra, Marx, Hayek, and Utopia

VIII. **Anarchism – An Overview**

IX. **Anarchist Political Theory**
   Sartwell, *Against the State*

X. **Anarchist Economics**
   Warren, *Equitable Commerce*
   Tucker, “*State Socialism and Anarchism*”
   Carson, *Studies in Mutualist Political Economy*, ch. 2, 5, 6
   Johnson, “*Markets Freed from Capitalism*,” in Chartier and Johnson, *Markets, Not Capitalism*, ch. 4
XI. **History of Individualist Anarchism**  
Stringham, ed., *Anarchy and the Law*, ch. 24 - 30

XII. **The Economic Analysis of Anarchism**  
Powell and Stringham, “Public choice and the economic analysis of anarchy: a survey”

XIII. **Private Property Anarchism and Polycentric Legal Orders**  
Stringham, ed., *Anarchy and the Law*, chapters 2 – 4, 14 - 20, and 34 - 40

**LIST OF “HETERODOX POLITICAL ECONOMISTS”**

*19th-Century*  
Friedrich List  
Thomas Hodgskin  
John Francis Bray  
Karl Rodbertus  
Errico Malatesta  
Henry George  
Voltaireine de Cleyre  
Gustave de Molinari  
Josiah Warren  
Benjamin Tucker  
Lysander Spooner  
François-Marie-Charles Fourier  
Jean-Joseph Louis Blanc  
Karl Kautsky  
Georges Sorel  
William Godwin  
Pierre-Joseph Proudhon  
Max Stirner  
Mikhail Bakunin  
Peter Kropotkin  
Leo Tolstoy

*20th-Century*  
Gunnar Myrdal  
Thorsten Veblen  
John R. Commons  
Abba Lerner  
Kenneth Boulding  
Murray Rothbard  
Daniel Kahneman  
Piero Sraffra  
Michal Kalecki  
Emma Goldman  
Murray Bookchin  
Noam Chomsky  
Karl Hess  
Paul Goodman  
Joan Robinson  
Alexander Berkman  
Paul Ormerod  
Roy Harrod  
Nicholas Kaldor  
Hyman Minsky  
George L.S. Shackle