

*Classics of Political Economy POLS 1415*  
Spring 2013

Mark Blyth  
Department of Political Science  
Brown University  
Office: 123 Watson  
Lecture Times: Tuesday and Thursday 2:30pm-3:50pm  
Office Hours: Thursday 10-12 and by appointment  
Tel: 3-1567  
E-mail: [mark\\_blyth@brown.edu](mailto:mark_blyth@brown.edu)

Sections:  
TBA

This course is both historical and theoretical and overlaps with the disciplines of political science, history, economics, and political theory. It is partly an intellectual history and partly a genealogy of “the classics” of political economy. The course traces some of the most important classical statements of political economy regarding the nature of the economy and its relation to other spheres of social and political life. This is achieved through a consideration of some of the major contributions to the “political” study of the economy from the seventeenth century to the present; Locke, Ricardo, Smith, Rousseau, Mill, Marshall, Bentham, Marx, Keynes, Hayek, Schumpeter, Friedman, and others are examined.

The point of engaging this material in this way is to examine the notion of the economy as a non-political sphere of life. This is done through an exploration of the philosophical assumptions, normative commitments, and ideological stances of different writers, theories, and schools of thought. In doing so the course aims to illustrate how the taken for granted assumptions which underlie discussions of ‘the economy’ and ‘politics’ are mediated, contested, and constructed rather than, as they often appear, ‘natural’ and ‘self-apparent.’ By mapping the parallel growth of the liberal/capitalist economy and the liberal/democratic notion of the individual, who is both a product of, and a producer within, this economy, the course hopes to demonstrate both the political nature of economics and the economic bases of politics. In this way not only are we able to develop a better understanding of the world around us, we can also lay the foundations for a better understanding of contemporary applications of political economy in political science and in other social sciences.

### **Course Requirements:**

There are three pieces of work for course credit for each of the classes. There are two substantive papers (7-10 pages) due as per the schedule. Finally there is, of course, a final exam covering the whole semester's work. This will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2013. The breakdown on these components is as follows: Paper 1 30% Paper 2 30% Final Exam 30%. The remaining ten percent is class/section participation.

### **Books for Purchase:**

Mark Blyth, *Austerity: The History of a Dangerous Idea* (New York: Oxford University Press 2013)

Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press 1994)

Albert Hirschman, *The Passions and The Interests: Political Arguments for Capitalism before its Triumph* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1978)

John Maynard Keynes, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* (Harcourt Brace 1964)

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (Hackett 1996)

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (Hackett 1996)

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (Boston: Beacon Press 1984 or latest imprint)

John Quiggin, *Zombie Economics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 2010)

David Ricardo, *Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* (New York: Prometheus Books 1996)

Jean J. Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings* (Hackett 1996)

Joseph A. Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* (New York: Harper Torchbooks 1942)

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (Hackett 1996)

Robert Tucker, (ed.): *The Marx-Engels Reader* (New York: Norton 1978 or latest imprint)

## Course Schedule

### Part One: Constructing the Liberal World

Thursday January 24th

*The Pre-Economy*

Aristotle: *The Politics*

Bk. 1 i-xiii (pp. 51-92) Bk. 2 i-vii  
(pp. 101-126)

Polyani K. "Aristotle Discovers the Economy"

Tuesday January 29th

*Inventing the Liberal World*

Locke J. *Second Treatise of Government*  
(All)

Thursday January 31<sup>st</sup>

**No Class – Conference Absence**

Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup>

*Inventing the Liberal World*

Hirschman A. *The Passions and the Interests* pp. 9-66

Thursday February 7th

*Inventing the Liberal World*

Hirschman A. *The Passions and the Interests* pp. 69-135

Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup>

*Inventing the Liberal World*

Hume. D. *Political Discourses*  
in Medema and Samuels pp. 133-153

Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup>

*Making the Liberal World*

Smith A. *The Wealth of Nations*  
pp. 3-83

Say J. B. *A Treatise on Political*

*Economy* in Medema and Samuels pp. 245-256

Tuesday February 19th

**University Long Weekend – No classes**

Thursday February 21<sup>st</sup>

*Making the Liberal World*

Smith A. *The Wealth of Nations*  
pp.166-205.

Tuesday February 26<sup>th</sup>

*Problems in Paradise?*

Malthus: *Essay on Population*  
13-44

Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup>

*Problems in Paradise?*

Ricardo D. *Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*  
pp.17-45, 61-76, 89-108, 183-200, 266-269, 278-299.

Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>

*Finding New Foundations?*

Mill J.S. *On Liberty* pp. 1-113

**Paper 1 Given Out March 5<sup>th</sup> and is due back March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Part Two: Contesting the Liberal World**

Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> - *Man as He Really Is or Ought to Be?*

Rousseau JJ. *The Basic Political Writings*  
'The Discourse on the Origins of Inequality'  
pp. 37-81  
'The Discourse on Political Economy'  
pp. 111-141.

Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>

*The Mechanics of Materialism*  
Marx K. In Tucker (ed.) *Marx-Engels Reader*, Das Kapital, Volume One  
pp. 303-361

Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>

**No Class – Conference Absence**

Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>

*The Mechanics of Crisis*  
Marx K. In Tucker (ed.) *Marx-Engels Reader: Capital Volume One*  
pp. 388-403, 419-431, 439-465

Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup>

*Saving Liberalism from Itself*  
Keynes J.M. *The General Theory*  
pp. 4-23, 46-52, 89-135

**No Classes March 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break**

Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Saving Liberalism from Itself*  
Keynes J.M. *The General Theory*  
pp. 135-186, 245-257, 372-385

Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup>

*Challenging Liberalism's History*  
Polyani K. *The Great Transformation*  
pp. 3-110

Kalecki M. "Political Aspects of Full Employment" *Political Quarterly* 1944.

Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>

*Challenging Liberalism's History*  
Polyani K. *The Great Transformation*  
pp. 111-177, 192-200, 223-236, 249-258b

Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup>

*The Liberal Response*  
Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* pp. 61-163, 235-302, 376-406.

### Part Three: The Empire Strikes Back

Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup>

*The Austrians Hold Out*

Tuesday Nov 29<sup>th</sup>

Ebeling, R. (ed.) *The Austrian Theory of the Trade Cycle* pp. 25-123

Von Mises Human Action

Chapter XXXVI 'The Crisis of Interventionism'

pp. 851-857

Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>

**No Class – Conference Absence**

Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>

*The Émigré Strikes Back*

Hayek F. *The Road to Serfdom*

(All)

Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>

*Neoliberalism*

Friedman M. "The Counter Revolution in Monetary Theory," pp. 1-21

Friedman M., "Inflation and Unemployment: the New Dimension of Politics" both in *Monetarist Economics* (1991) pp. 87-113.

### Paper Two given out April 25<sup>th</sup> Due back May 1<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup>

*Neoliberalism Consolidated?*

Quiggin J. *Zombie Economics* pp. 35-172

Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>

*An Austere Future?*

Blyth, *Austerity*, pp. 132-226.

Wiles M. H. "Rational Expectations as Counter-

Revolution," in Bell D., and Kristol I.,

*The Crisis in Economic Theory* (1981)

pp. 81-97.