CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

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COURSE SYLLABUS

ECON-ENG 329 Interterm 2015
Humanomics: Liberty, Economics, and the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Catalog Description:
Prerequisites: FFC 100: Humanomics or permission of instructors.

To be human is to know good and evil. To be human is not to be an angel but to have the liberty to decide. To be human is to be limited, to face trade-offs. This course dialogically explores John Milton’s epic Paradise Lost and Thomas Sowell’s Knowledge and Decisions to shape one of the most fundamental questions of economics outside the Garden of Eden—not what must be decided but who shall decide. How do we apply the knowledge of good and evil in a society of strangers? Do we praise or blame the individual free to choose? Or the results of an economic order incomprehensible to any one mind? "The world [is] all before [us], where to choose."

(Offered Interterm.) 3 credits. (7VI, 7SI, 7AI)

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate Milton’s concept of the knowledge of good and evil.
2. Explain Sowell’s argument that “the most fundamental question is not what decision to make but who is to make it.”
3. Integrate Milton’s and Sowell’s concept of liberty into an idea applicable to economics.
4. Complicate the popular tendency to moralize economic decisions and their results.
5. Challenge and deconstruct the perceived tension between economics and the humanities.
6. Ask cogent, thought-provoking questions based upon critical reading of texts across a range of genres—epic poem, non-fiction, and documentary.
7. Apply experience in economic experiments to ideas in literary and economic texts.
Required Texts:

Essential Facility:
Seminar setting

Instructional Methods:
This course uses a combination of hands-on learning in Socratic roundtable discussions of texts (both print and film), writing workshops, question development, experiments, and demonstration of meaning making through expository and creative papers.

Evaluation:

1. Participation in Socratic Roundtable (15%)
2. Questions (15%)
3. Experiments (10%)
4. Writers Workshop (10%)
5. Expository/Creative writing (40%)
6. Oral Final Exam (10%)

Because of the interactive nature of the class, attendance is an essential component. Excessive tardies constitute absences; three absences may result in failure (Undergraduate Catalog, “Academic Policies and Procedures”). Please keep this in mind. Missed in-class work cannot be made up.

Students with Disabilities
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 or (www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services) if you have questions regarding this procedure, or for information and to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.
Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy
Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor and referral to the University's Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions including expulsion.

Prepared by: Jan Osborn & Bart J. Wilson, Spring Term, 2014
Last revised by: Jan Osborn & Bart J. Wilson, Interterm, 2015

Tentative Course Schedule and Outline

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