Humanomics: Exchange and the Human Condition

Catalog Description:
Prerequisites: None.

What makes a rich nation rich? What makes a good person good? And what do these questions have to do with one another? While exploring these and other questions about markets and ethics, students will challenge the perception of economics as distinct from the humanities. Co-taught by professors from the Economic Science Institute and the English Department, this course combines the laboratory method of inquiry into the human propensity to exchange with the cultural interpretation of the human condition in novels, lyrics, poems, and film. (Offered fall semester.) 3 credits.

Course Objectives:

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

1. Understand how people create both material and immaterial wealth.
2. Challenge and deconstruct the perceived tension between economics and the humanities.
3. Articulate a coherent explanation for the evolution of human prosperity and flourishing.
4. Ask cogent, thought-provoking questions based upon critical reading of texts.
5. Present, explain, and evaluate economic- and humanity-based arguments orally and in essay format.

Required Texts:
(Must be this edition published by Penguin Classics in 2006)

Students are expected to bring the McCloskey, Ridley and Steinbeck books, journals, and any other of the day’s readings with them to each discussion. Several required texts will be made available on the Leatherby Libraries e-reserves.
Essential Facility:
Access to computer lab; seminar setting.

Instructional Methods:
This course uses a combination of hands-on learning in Socratic roundtable discussions of readings, laboratory experiments, journaling, focused free writes, model writes, and two expository papers. The students will use the experiential opportunities to process ideas for a final paper.

Evaluation:

1. Participation in class discussions (15%)
2. Laboratory experiments (10%)
3. Questions (15%)
4. Journal (10%)
5. Expository papers (15%)
6. Final paper (20%)
7. Oral final examination (15%)

Because of the interactive nature of the class, attendance is an essential component. Excessive tardies constitute absences; six absences may result in failure (Undergraduate Catalog 2010-2011, 47). 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 Disability Services Office. The Disability Services Office will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student based on the documentation and the individual student needs. 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, which 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 not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Bibliography:
Stevens, George (Director). *Shane.* Paramount Pictures, 1953. Film.
Stone, Oliver (Director). *Wall Street.* Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, 1987. Film.
Stone, Oliver (Director). *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps.* Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, 2010. Film.

Prepared by: Jan Osborn & Bart J. Wilson, Fall Term, 2010
Last revised by: Jan Osborn & Bart J. Wilson, Fall Term, 2010
Tentative Course Schedule and Outline

Monday, 8/30
Organization & Exhortation

Wednesday, 9/1
Ridley, Prologue and Chapter 1

Monday, 9/6
Labor Day Holiday

Wednesday, 9/8
Experiment (Economic Science Institute, Wilkinson Hall, 1st Floor Main Hallway)

Monday, 9/13
Ridley, Chapters 2 & 3

Wednesday, 9/15
Steinbeck, Chapters 1-5

Monday, 9/20
Ridley, Chapter 4

Wednesday, 9/22
Irving, “The Devil and Tom Walker”
Wordsworth, “The World is Too Much with Us”
Thoreau, from Walden

Sunday, 9/26, ~6:00 p.m. (AMC 30 at The Block)

Monday, 9/27
Steinbeck, Chapters 6-9

Wednesday, 9/29
Ridley, Chapter 5

Monday, 10/4
Library Orientation, Library, Room 305
Expository Paper 1 Due, Submit 2 copies
Overview Final Paper

Wednesday, 10/6
Steinbeck, Chapters 10-15

Monday, 10/11
Ridley, Chapters 6 & 7
Wednesday, 10/13
    Morrison, from *Beloved*
    Frost, “The Death of the Hired Man”

Monday, 10/18
    Steinbeck, Chapters 16-19

Wednesday, 10/20
    Steinbeck, Chapters 20-24

*Wednesday, 10/20, ~7:00 p.m. (John Biggs Conference Room, Sandhu Conference Center)*
    Movie: *District 9* (2009)

Monday, 10/25
    Ridley, Chapter 8

Wednesday, 10/27
    Experiment

Monday, 11/1
    Steinbeck, Chapters 25-30

Wednesday, 11/3
    Expository Paper 2 Draft Due
    Final Paper Topic and Plan Approved

Monday, 11/8
    Expository Paper 2 Due, Submit 2 copies
    McCloskey, Apology: Sections I-V

Wednesday, 11/10
    Experiment (Economic Science Institute, Wilkinson Hall, 1st Floor Main Hallway)
    Final Paper Feedback

Monday, 11/15
    McCloskey, Apology: Sections VI-VII & Chapter 8 (Love and the Bourgeoisie)

*Monday, 11/15, ~7:00 pm (John Biggs Conference Room, Sandhu Conference Center)*
    Movie: *Shane* (1953)

Wednesday, 11/17
    McCloskey, Chapter 16 (The Good of Courage)
Monday, 11/22
  Miller, from *Death of a Salesman*
  Auden, “The Unknown Citizen”
  Submit 2 copies of outline/draft of final paper

Wednesday, 11/24
  Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, 11/29
  Continue work on final paper

Wednesday, 12/1
  Continue work on final paper

Monday, 12/6
  Hayek, Chapter 6 (The Mysterious World of Trade and Money)
  Questions and answers with Prof. Deirdre McCloskey

Wednesday, 12/8
  Submit 2 copies of final paper
  Synthesize ideas for final examination

FINAL EXAMINATION
The final examination will be conducted orally, each student responding to questions from the professors in a ten-minute block of time. Examination appointments will be designated following participation in the experiments.

  Friday, December 10, 9 – 11:30 a.m.
  Saturday, December 11, 9 – 11:30 a.m.
  Wednesday, December 15, 8 – 10:30 a.m.