

# Course Descriptions

for all concurrent sessions

## Wednesday, July 30

### 9:00 a.m.

**Further Explorations in Austrian Value and Utility Theory** (Herbener, Schlarbaum Room): A critique of mainstream theories of utility. Covers the reasons behind these theories and discusses both representation and indifference curve theories.

**Epistemological Problems of Economics** (Gordon, Massey Library): Asks the question: Is economics an *a priori* science?

**Keynes and Hayek: Head to Head** (Garrison, Condon Hall): Begins with the Keynesian circular-flow and identifies the precise correctives that allow the Keynesian analytics to morph into the Hayekian analytics.

### 10:15 a.m.

**Theory of Profit, Loss, and Entrepreneurship** (Salerno, Massey Library): Deals with the crucial function of the entrepreneur as a risk-taker and forecaster of the future in a modern market economy. It demonstrates the role played by profits and losses in guiding entrepreneurial action.

**Law and Economics** (Hoppe, Condon Hall): Austrian vs. Chicago views.

### 11:30 a.m.

**The Great Depression** (Garrison, Massey Library): This lecture goes beyond the analytics of boom and bust and deals with the policy perversities that account for the extraordinary depth and length of the Great Depression.

**Environmental and Resource Economics** (Reisman, Condon Hall): An analysis and refutation of environmentalism's theme that continuous economic progress is impossible and/or dangerous. Why, for practical purposes, the potential supply of natural resources is limitless. Why production and economic activity, by their very nature, improve man's environment. The misanthropic nature and destructive goals of environmentalism. How the free market is the solution for dealing with global warming/global cooling and with nature in general. (NOTE: See blog, suggested readings, and hyperlink to perfect replica of Professor Reisman's *Capitalism: A Treatise on Economics* at <http://mises.org/events/103>)

**Economics and its Ethical Assumptions** (Long, Schlarbaum Room): Does subjectivism about economic value imply subjectivism about ethical value? Or can an objective ethics be based on a subjectivist economics?

### 1:30 p.m.

**On Private Property** (Block, Massey Library): The case for private property, applied to roads, highways, oceans, lakes and rivers.

**On War and Liberty** (Raico, Condon Hall): Why have the great classical liberal and libertarian thinkers been enemies of war? Raico answers it's because they have rightly seen war as the single greatest threat to human freedom and the single greatest friend of the state and state power.

**Further Considerations in the Theory of Interest** (Hülsmann, Schlarbaum Room): Presentation and critique of the main types of interest theories.

2:45 p.m.

**Economics of F.A. Hayek** (Klein, Massey Library): Overview of the life, work and contributions of F.A. Hayek, the influential twentieth-century Austrian who shared the 1974 Nobel Prize in Economics.

**Economics of Risk and Insurance** (Hoppe, Condon Hall): The meaning of probability; risk vs. uncertainty; insurability and un-insurability.

## Thursday, July 31

9:00 a.m.

**The Fallacies of Public Finance** (Block, Condon Hall): There is no such thing as market failure; a critique of the externalities and public goods “market failures”.

**On Doing Economic History** (Woods, Massey Library): The advantages enjoyed by the historian who is grounded in Austrian economics.

**The Persistence of Keynesian Macroeconomics** (Herbener, Schlarbaum Room): An exposition of the economics of Keynes. Discusses the reasons behind and the four pillars of his General Theory: Effective Demand, Liquidity Preference, Marginal Efficiency of Capital, and the Scarcity Theory of Capital.

10:15 a.m.

**The Theory of Political Entrepreneurship** (DiLorenzo, Massey Library): Economics and politics of wealth destruction.

**The Fiscal Issues: Tax and Deficit Finance** (Garrison, Condon Hall): Challenges the popular view that “deficits don’t matter” by identifying the hidden costs of chronically large budget deficits.

**General Equilibrium Analysis in Austrian Economics** (Hülsmann, Schlarbaum Room): Advanced class on price theory.

11:30 a.m.

**Theory and History** (Gordon, Condon Hall): Mises’s criticisms of Marx and Spengler.

**Austrian Answers to Neoclassical Puzzles** (Murphy, Massey Library): Discusses topics in mainstream theory that Austrian tools can easily analyze, such as the equity premium puzzle and why people walk up stairs but not escalators.

**Time and Uncertainty** (Herbener, Schlarbaum Room): A discussion of the implications of time in human action. Explores implications of time on production, the rate of interest, uncertainty, entrepreneurship, error and economic calculation.

1:30 p.m.

**The Benevolence of Capitalism** (Reisman, Condon Hall): Freedom as the foundation of personal safety and economic security; peace as the corollary of freedom. The profit motive as the foundation of economic coordination, consumer sovereignty, and economic progress. Why private ownership of the means of production is in the material self-interest of the non-owners. How the institution of inheritance benefits the non-heirs. How the building of great industrial fortunes illustrates the principle that under capitalism one man’s gain is other men’s gain not loss. Economic competition as the process of organizing the

system of social cooperation known as the division of labor, which has room for all, with the least capable being enabled to outcompete even the most capable to the extent necessary to be employed; growing economic gains to all under free competition. The economic planning of capitalism and its coordination by the price system. Capitalism as the antithesis of monopoly. Capitalism as the system of progressively rising real wages, the shortening of hours, the improvement of working conditions, and the abolition of child labor. The 100-percent-reserve precious-metals monetary system that would exist under full capitalism is inflation-proof and deflation/depression-proof.

**The Economics of Deflation** (Hülsmann, Schlarbaum Room): Advanced class in monetary economics. Discusses how the economy operates and production grows when the money supply shrinks and prices fall.

**Economics of the Public Sector** (DiLorenzo, Massey Library): Applying Austrian economics to analyze the state.

#### 2:45 p.m.

**Career Strategy for Austrians** (Klein, Condon Hall): An open-ended discussion of school and job issues facing Austrians, aimed at students considering careers in academia, public policy, journalism, and related fields.

**Mises and Rothbard in the History of Thought** (Salerno, Massey Library): Addresses the contributions of the great treatises of Ludwig von Mises (*Human Action*) and his follower Murray N. Rothbard (*Man, Economy, and State*). It explains how each book was crucial in saving modern economics from destruction at crucial points in its history and the role each book played in the modern revival of Austrian economics.

**Prohibition and Consumption Controls** (Thornton): The economics of prohibitions and sin taxes and why they don't work.

#### 4:00 p.m. Seminars

**Theory and History** (Hoppe & Hülsmann, Condon Hall): Advanced seminar comparing the two main approaches in analyzing human action.

**Economics and Ethics** (Gordon & Long, Massey Library): A discussion of some of the main ethical arguments for a free society advanced by Mises, Rothbard, Hoppe, Hayek, and Rand.

**The Corporate State** (Woods & DiLorenzo, Ward Library): The false prophets of capitalism..

**A Critique of Public Choice on Government** (Thornton & Block, Schlarbaum Room): The contributions of and problems with the Public Choice School on understanding government.

**Common Errors in Economic Theory** (Herbener, Klein & Murphy, Hogan Seminar Room): A wide-ranging discussion on current topics in contemporary economic theory, providing an Austrian appraisal and critique of new theories, techniques, and applications such as behavioral economics and behavioral finance, game theory, neuro-economics, contingent valuation (and environmental economics more generally), and related topics.

## Friday, August 1

#### 9:00 a.m.

**Health Economics** (Block, Condon Hall): An examination of socialized medicine, the high costs of health care, drug legalization, the FDA, breast milk substitutes, markets in used body parts, and medical malpractice law.

**The Corporation and the Free Market** (Klein, Massey Library): The role of the corporation in the free society, emphasizing corporate governance, shareholder activism, "stakeholder" theories, and the relationship between the corporation and the state.

**Protectionism: Origins and Effects** (DiLorenzo, Schlarbaum Room): How to destroy human civilization.

**10:15 a.m.**

**Vienna vs. Chicago on Monetary Issues** (Garrison, Condon Hall): Identifies the critical differences between Hayek and Friedman on monetary theory and policy and argues for decentralized banking.

**International Monetary Systems** (Salerno, Massey Library): Compares the structure and operation of various international monetary systems, including a pure gold standard, the classical gold standard, the Bretton Woods System, and managed and freely-floating exchange rates, among others. It shows that the relevant distinction between systems is not whether they feature fixed or flexible exchange rates, but rather if they are based on a market commodity money like gold or a monopoly fiat money like the current U. S. dollar.

**Wealth Redistribution, Domestic and International** (Woods, Schlarbaum Room): The problems with wealth redistribution programs, both within and between countries.

**11:30 a.m.**

**Current Topics in Economic Policy** (Block, Condon Hall): A critique of feminist economics: equal pay laws, racial and sexual discrimination and the glass ceiling.

**Economic Reasoning: The Most Common Fallacies** (Gordon, Massey Library).

**Consumer Sovereignty and the Production Process** (Murphy, Schlarbaum Room): Discusses Mises's view of consumer sovereignty, and Rothbard's critique of the concept.

**1:30 p.m.**

**New Directions for Austrian Economics** (Salerno, Massey Library): Discusses the important difference between the "vocational" orientation of most Austrians toward pursuing research in economics and the "professional" orientation adopted by most mainstream economists (and some Austrians). It demonstrates the difference in the types of research that arise from these conflicting orientations.

**The Economics of Inflation** (Reisman, Condon Hall): The two definitions of inflation: rising prices or an "undue" increase in the quantity of money. The increase in the quantity of money as the only possible explanation of a sustained, significant general rise in prices and of the other accompanying symptoms of inflation. The increase in the quantity of money as the cause of a decrease in the demand for money for holding and thus of a rise in the so-called velocity of circulation of money. How all other explanations of rising prices ultimately reinforce the quantity theory of money. Further effects of inflation with special elaboration on the undermining of capital accumulation and thus real wages.

**2:45 p.m.**

**Protection and the Market for Security** (Hoppe, Condon Hall): Monopoly vs. competition in the provision of law and order.

**Friedman vs. Mises on Method** (Long, Massey Library): Milton Friedman's case for empirical method and idealized models vs. the Austrian case for *a priori* method and realistic descriptions.

**4:00 p.m. Faculty Panels**

**Microeconomics** (Block, DiLorenzo, Klein, Gordon, Herbener, Long, Murphy in Condon Hall): deals with questions on methodology, value and price theory, the social division of labor, profit and entrepreneurship, consumer sovereignty, production and the firm, interventionism, environmental and resource economics, the Rothbardian theory of taxation, and the public sector and political entrepreneurship.

**Macroeconomics** (Garrison, Hoppe, Hülsmann, Reisman, Salerno, Thornton, Woods in Massey Library): deals with issues and questions in the areas of money and banking, inflation and deflation, capital and interest, Hayek vs. Keynes, the Austrian theory of the business cycle, the Great Depression, deficit finance, international monetary systems, and the transition to the gold standard.

## Saturday, August 2

9:00 a.m.

**Networks, Information, and Technology** (Klein, Condon Hall): What does Austrian economics say about network industries, “information goods,” intellectual property, technological innovation, and economic growth? Do we need a “new economics” to go with the “new economy”?

**The Rothbardian Theory of Taxes** (DiLorenzo, Massey Library): “Public Finance” as statist apologetics.

**The Economics of Legal Tender Laws** (Hülsmann, Schlarbaum Room): LT laws are the main instrument of monetary interventionism. Discusses their impact on different types of monetary systems and draws conclusions for the history of money.

10:15 a.m.

**Economics of Political Centralization** (Hoppe, Condon Hall): Explanation of political and monetary centralization.

**The American Austrians** (Herbener, Massey Library): An overview of the early twentieth-century Austrians in America. Looks at the lives and works of Frank Fetter, Henry Hazlitt, and Benjamin Anderson.

**Apriorism and Positivism in the Social Sciences** (Long, Schlarbaum Room): How Mises resolves the opposition between the positivist view that social science should imitate natural science, and the historicist view that social science should abandon the search for universal laws.

11:30 a.m.

**The Path to Sound Money** (Reisman, Condon Hall): The 100-percent-reserve gold standard as the ultimate ideal; the implied monetary role for silver. The re-establishment of gold as money: the Mises plan; the Rothbard plan. The problems of the transition and their possible solution. Related steps: a creditors’ protection bill; removing impediments to the demand for gold as an inflation hedge; abolishing taxes based on the rise in the price of gold; making gold contracts enforceable in the courts; allowing merchants to discriminate between precious metal coins and paper money of the same face value. How inflation in paper can simultaneously be deflation in gold-application to the 1929 depression.

**Business Cycles and Prediction** (Thornton): A comparison of the Austrian school and mainstream economics on predicting business cycles and stock markets and a short history of predictions over the last 100 years.

**Recent Books Important to Austrians** (Gordon).