

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Department of Economics

SII 199Y
CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC SYSTEMS
2011-2012

Professor Abraham Rotstein – First Term
Professor Gustavo Indart - Second Term

First Term Outline

Section A T10-12

THE COURSE

This seminar looks at some very diverse economies in a comparative framework. These include market, non-market, and hybrid economic systems, both historical and contemporary. In the first term, following a general introduction, students will examine ‘primitive’ and tribal economies; these will be contrasted with the classical market economy and the modern process of globalization.

In the second term, the course will examine the role of government today in several countries in Asia and Latin America.

GRADES

A preliminary assignment for the first term will consist of a short **BOOK REVIEW** due October 4th. Details for this assignment will be supplied in class.

Students are expected to write a fully-documented **TERM PAPER** on a topic related to the seminar themes. A two-page outline of the essay, including the title, main theme, sub-sections, and a bibliography of about six key books is due on Tuesday October 18th.

These essays are due on November 8th. Essays should be about 3000 to 4000 words in length (12 to 16 double-spaced pages).

A **TERM TEST** covering the first term’s work will take place on Tuesday December 6th.

PARTICIPATION in seminar discussions and class presentations will also form part of the total mark.

The mark for the first term will be comprised of the following:

Book Review	10%
Term Test	15%
Term Essay	15%
Participation	10%

Total First Term 50%

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor Rotstein will be available during the first term on Mondays from 8:45-9:45am in room G 040 in the basement of the Economics Building at 150 St. George. He may also be reached by email at <abraham.rotstein@utoronto.ca>.

READINGS

The first-term readings for each topic are shown below, and are available in a reading package from **Print City, at 180 Bloor St. W., just west of Bloor and Avenue Rd. Their telephone number is 416-920-3040. The kit costs \$12 plus taxes.**

A list of readings for the second term will be distributed later.

OUTLINE – FIRST TERM

1. Introduction, September 13th

- How can economies be properly compared when their systems may diverge widely? Key features of all economic systems will be discussed
- How many different patterns of economic exchange exist? How do they operate?
- What is the “classic” market economy?

Readings

Polanyi, Karl. "Societies and Economic Systems." Ch.4 in The Great Transformation. Beacon Press, 1944, pp.43-55.

Diamond, Jared. "From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy." Ch.14 from Guns, Germs, and Steel. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1999, pp.265-292.

2. Primitive economies. September 20 - October 4 (3 Sessions)

- Primitive economies
- Canadian Indians
- West Africa
- New Guinea

Readings

Forde, Daryll and Mary Douglas. "Primitive Economics." Man, Culture and Society, Harry L. Shapiro, ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956, pp.330-344.

Rich, E.E. "Trade Habits and Economic Motivation Among the Indians of North America." Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science, Vol.26, No.1, Feb. 1960, pp.35-53.

Polanyi, Karl, (in collaboration with A. Rotstein). "Reciprocity: Mutual Aid and Cooperation." Ch.4 from Dahomey and the Slave Trade. University of Washington Press, 1966, pp.60-69.

Malinowski, B. "Kula: The Circulating Exchange of Valuables in the Archipelagoes of Eastern New Guinea." Man (1920), No..51, pp.97-105.

October 4th Book Review Due

3. The Classical Market Economy, October 11th – 25th (3 Sessions)

Theory, History, Social structure

Readings

Fusfeld, Daniel R. "Adam Smith." Ch.3 from The Age of the Economist. Boston: Addison Wesley, 2002, pp.23-36.

Angresano, James. "England's Laissez-Faire Market Economy 1830-1870." Ch.6 from Comparative Economics, 2nd edition. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1996, pp. 111-130.

Friedman, Milton. "Introduction." Capitalism and Freedom. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962, pp.1-6.

Fusfeld, Daniel R. "The Chicago School." Excerpt from Ch.14 of The Age of the Economist. Boston: Addison Wesley, 2002, pp.207-210.

Polanyi, Karl. "The Self-Regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Labor, Land, and Money." Ch.6 from The Great Transformation. Beacon Press, 1944, pp.68-76.

October 18 Outline of Essay Due

3. The Great Depression and Keynes' Solution, November 1&15 (2 Sessions)

Readings

Fusfeld, Daniel R. "The Keynesian Revolution." Ch.10 from The Age of the Economist. Boston: Addison Wesley, 2002, pp.128-138.

Nov. 8, Fall Break, No Class

November 15th Essay Due

5. Globalization, November 22

Readings

Rosenberg, Tina. "Globalization." The New York Times Magazine, 18 August, 2002.

Stiglitz, Joseph E. "The Promise of Global Institutions." Ch.1 from Globalization and Its Discontents. New York: W.W. Norton, 2002, pp.3-22.

November 29 Class Test