



Allievi Program

Tutorial in Economics

Fall 2021

Instructors: Christoph Albert and Brett McCully

Contact Information for Brett McCully

Collegio Carlo Alberto Email: brett.mccully@carloalberto.org
Office: 107 Website: <https://www.carloalberto.org/person/brett-mccully/>
Office Hours: Drop by, or send an email to set up an appointment.

Contact Information for Christoph Albert

Collegio Carlo Alberto Email: christoph.albert@carloalberto.org
Office: 105 Website: <https://www.carloalberto.org/person/christoph-albert/>
Office Hours: Drop by, or send an email to set up an appointment.

Objective of the course

In this course we present an introduction to economic problems and, more importantly, economic reasoning. Our first objective is to illustrate the questions economists aim to answer. We show how economics deals with issues of diverse nature, like:

- What explains the reduction in criminality occurred in the last two decades?
- Which is the influence of parents on children outcomes?
- How is the production of a society distributed? Why do some get more than others?
- Why do some people succeed far more than others?
- Are stocks always fairly priced?
- Does a sudden inflow of workers into a location decrease wages?

Our second objective is to describe the methods economists use to answer these widely diverse questions.

Structure of the class

Students and instructors meet weekly to discuss the contents of the class. Before each meeting, students should read the assigned material, in order to organize the discussion around it.

Readings

This course will focus on the following books:

- Robert L. Heilbroner, "The Worldly Philosophers," Simon & Schuster, 1999
- Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, "Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything," William Morrow, 2006
- Richard H. Thaler, "Misbehaving," W. W. Norton Company, 2016

Day	Instructor	Readings
1	McCully	Heilbroner, Introduction (ch. 1)
2	McCully	Heilbroner, Economic Revolution and Adam Smith (ch. 2 & 3)
3	McCully	Heilbroner, Malthus, Ricardo, the Utopian Socialists, and J. S. Mill (ch. 4 & 5)
4	McCully	Heilbroner, Marx and the Victorian World and Underworld of Economics (ch. 6 & 7)
5	McCully	Heilbroner, Veblen and Keynes (ch. 8 & 9)
6	Albert	Freakonomics, ch. 1, 3, 4
7	Albert	Freakonomics, ch. 5
8	Albert	Thaler, ch. 1, 2
9	Albert	Thaler, ch. 6, 7
10	Albert	David Card "The Impact of the Mariel Boatlift in the Miami Labor Market," Industrial and Labor Relations Review, 1990 George Borjas "The Wage Impact of the Marielitos; A Reappraisal," NBER WP 2015

Tentative Schedule