Allievi Program

Tutorial in Economics
Fall 202

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?
- Why are most hockey players born in January?
- Why does unemployment occur? Is it avoidable?

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:


**Missing classes**

Because this course is discussion based, if you miss a class, you must first notify the instructor and then submit a one-page essay summarizing and discussing your thoughts about that week’s readings.

**Grading**

70% essays  
30% discussion

**Essay assignment**

For each half of the course you will have to write one essay. The essay should be approximately 1.5 pages long.

**Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>McCully</td>
<td>Heilbroner, Introduction (ch. 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>McCully</td>
<td>Heilbroner, Economic Revolution and Adam Smith (ch. 2 &amp; 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>McCully</td>
<td>Heilbroner, Malthus, Ricardo, (ch. 4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4   | McCully    | Heilbroner, the Utopian Socialists, and J. S. Mill and the Victorian World and Underworld of Economics (ch. 5 & 7)  
|     |            | Prof. McCully’s essay prompt distributed |
| 5   | McCully    | Heilbroner, Veblen and Schumpeter (ch. 8 & 9) |
| 6   | Albert     | Freakonomics, ch. 1, 3, 4 |
| 7   | Albert     | Freakonomics, ch. 5  
|     |            | Prof. McCully’s essay due |
| 8   | Albert     | Thaler, ch. 1, 2 |
| 9   | Albert     | Thaler, ch. 6, 7 |
|     |            | George Borjas “The Wage Impact of the Marielitos; A Reappraisal,” NBER WP 2015 |
| 11  | Albert     | No class  
|     |            | Prof. Albert’s essay due |