



Research  
Education  
Outreach

CCA

## Allievi Program

Tutorial in Economics

Fall 2022

Instructors: Christoph Albert and Brett McCully

### Contact Information for Brett McCully

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### Contact Information for Christoph Albert

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### 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:

- 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

## 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

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, (ch. 4)
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
10	Albert	David Card "The Impact of the Mariel Boatlift in the Miami Labor Market," <i>Industrial and Labor Relations Review</i> , 1990 George Borjas "The Wage Impact of the Marielitos; A Reappraisal," NBER WP 2015
11	Albert	No class Prof. Albert's essay due