There are three parts to this reading list and course. Part I is an introduction to some of the basic themes of the course, viz., the significant differences between political economy and mainstream economics and the existence both of different theories of political economy and of various ways of understanding those differences. Part II covers the basic concepts and methods of the principle “schools” encompassed by contemporary political economy: Marxian, classical, post-Keynesian, radical, institutionalist, Austrian, feminist, and postcolonial. Finally, in Part III we will discuss the different consequences of these theories by examining some specific issues and themes: justice, globalization, politics, and alternatives to capitalism.

READINGS
No textbook is required for this course. The only books you need to purchase are Field Guide to the U.S. Economy, by Jonathan Teller-Elsberg et al.; The Field Guide to the Global Economy, by Sarah Anderson et al.; and Deirdre McCloskey’s Economical Writing (2d ed); and Economics: Marxian versus Neoclassical, by Richard D. Wolff and Stephen A. Resnick. All of the remaining readings are from 2 “course packets” available at the Copy Shop, O’Shaughnessy Hall.

ORGANIZATION
The course will be conducted as a seminar. Therefore, it is important for all students to complete the assigned readings before each session and to participate in the classroom discussions.

GRADING
There will be no examinations in this course. Instead, students will prepare weekly papers, each approximately 1.5 to 2 pages, due each Tuesday in class. One of the purposes of the papers is to “grapple” with the readings—to formulate the main themes, to raise the interesting issues, to pose the key questions—in preparation for the classroom discussions. I will be looking for serious, thoughtful, and well-written critical engagements with the readings. The other purpose is to develop ideas for an 8-10-page final research paper. For that paper, students should choose a specific topic, concept, or theme from the readings and then explore it in more depth than is possible in the required readings and class discussions. Students should feel free to contact me—in person, by office telephone, or by email—to discuss paper topics, ways of investigating the topics, and possible references. An abstract and reading list for the paper are due on 21 November. The paper itself is due by 5 PM on the regularly scheduled final exam day.
The following journals regularly publish articles in political economy:

- Cambridge Journal of Economics
- Capital and Class
- Contributions to Political Economy
- Dollars and Sense
- Economy and Society
- Feminist Economics
- International Review of Applied Economics
- Journal of Economic Issues
- Journal of Post Keynesian Economics
- Monthly Review
- New Left Review
- Political Economy
- Research in Political Economy
- Rethinking Marxism
- Review of Austrian Economics
- Review of Black Political Economy
- Review of Political Economy
- Review of Radical Political Economics
- Review of Social Economy
- Studies in Political Economy

Here are some web sites relevant to political economy:

- Alternative Information and Development Centre [http://www.aidc.org.za/]
- Center for Economic and Policy Research [http://www.cepr.net/]
- Corporate Watch [http://www.corpwatch.org/]
- Economic Policy Institute [http://epinet.org/]
- Heterodox Economics Portal [http://www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/hetecon/]
- Inequality.org [http://inequality.org/]
- Left Business Observer [http://www.leftbusinessobserver.com/]

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMY

“THE FACTS”
22 and 24 August


Updates to the *Field Guide* [http://www.fguide.org]


POLITICAL ECONOMY AND MAINSTREAM ECONOMICS
29 August


WRITING POLITICAL ECONOMY
31 August

PART II: THEORIES OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

MARXIAN
5, 7, 12, and 14 September


POLITICAL ECONOMY IN FILM
19 and 21 September

Michael Moore, Roger & Me (1989)
Mike Judge, Office Space (1999)

CLASSICAL
26 and 28 September


POST-KEYNESIAN
3 and 5 October


RADICAL
10 and 12 October

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INSTITUTIONAL
24 October


RESEARCHING POLITICAL ECONOMY
26 October

Using the library and the internet

AUSTRIAN
31 October and 2 November


FEMINIST
7 and 9 November


Postcolonial
14 and 16 November


Part III: Issues in Political Economy

Justice
21 November
- abstract and reading list due


Globalization
28 November


Income Distribution & Politics
30 November


Alternatives
5 December


- final paper due (by 5 pm, 11 December)