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, households, income inequality and politics, and alternatives to capitalism.

**READINGS**

You need to purchase two books for this course: the *Field Guide to the U.S. Economy*, by Jonathan Teller-Elsberg et al. and *Introduction to Political Economy*, by Charles Sackrey et al. All of the remaining readings are from two “course packets” available at the Copy Shop, O'Shaughnessy Hall.

**ORGANIZATION**

The course will be conducted as a combination of lecture and 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 200-250 words, due each Tuesday in class. The purpose 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 assignment is an essay,
8 to 10 pages, on a recent book in political economy. Students should choose a book from the Political Economy Reading List, and then write a critical essay that addresses the key issues raised by the author and relates the author’s treatment of those issues to the readings in the course. Students should feel free to contact me—in person, by office telephone, or by email—to discuss book choices, ways of addressing the book’s main themes, and other possible references. You need to choose the book by 20 November. The essay 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 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”
28 and 30 August


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

POLITICAL ECONOMY AND MAINSTREAM ECONOMICS
4 September


POLITICAL ECONOMY IN FILM
6 September

Michael Moore, Roger & Me (1989)

PART II: THEORIES OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

MARXIAN
11, 13, 18, and 20 September


C. Sakrey et al., “Karl Marx and the Contradictions of Capitalism,” in Introduction to Political Economy, 4th ed., 51-82 (Boston: Economic Affairs Bureau)

CLASSICAL
25 and 27 September


POST-KEYNESIAN
2 and 4 October


RADICAL
9 and 11 October


INSTITUTIONAL
15 and 18 October


**AUSTRIAN**
30 October and 1 November


**FEMINIST**
6 and 8 November


POSTCOLONIAL
13 and 15 November


PART III: ISSUES IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

JUSTICE
20 November
- book choice due


HOUSEHOLD
27 November


INCOME DISTRIBUTION & POLITICS
29 November


**Alternatives**

4, 6, and 11 December


- final paper due (by 5 pm, 15 December)