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 3 books for this course: the Field Guide to the U.S. Economy (revised and updated, 2006) by Jonathan Teller-Elsberg et al., Economical Writing (2nd ed.) by Deirdre McCloskey, and Introduction to Political Economy (5th ed., 2008) by Charles Sackrey et al. All of the remaining readings are available on Electronic Reserve.

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 450-500 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, lectures, and discussions 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 18 April. The essay itself is due during the regularly scheduled final exam period.

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
- Center for Economic and Policy Research
- Corporate Watch
- Economic Policy Institute
- Heterodox Economics Portal
- Working Group on Extreme Inequality
- Left Business Observer
- Global Development and Environmental Institute
- History of Economic Thought

These blogs are relevant to political economy:

- Open Economics
- Real-World Economics Review Blog
- Dean Baker
- Richard D. Wolff
- Real Climate Economics
- Progressive Economics Forum
- Triple Crisis
- Thoughts on Economics
- Maxine Udall
- EconoSpeak
PART I: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMY

“THE FACTS”
19 and 24 January


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

POLITICAL ECONOMY AND MAINSTREAM ECONOMICS
26 and 31 January


WRITING POLITICAL ECONOMY
2 February


PART II: THEORIES OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

MARXIAN
7, 9, 14, and 16 February


CLASSICAL
21 and 23 February


**POST-KEYNESIAN**

28 February and 2 March


**RADICAL**

7 and 9 March


**INSTITUTIONAL**

21 and 23 March


**FEMINIST**

28 and 30 March


**POSTCOLONIAL**

4 and 6 April


**ECOLOGY**

11 and 13 April


**PART III: ISSUES IN POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**JUSTICE**

18 April

> book choice due

HOUSEHOLDS
20 April


CRISSES
27 April


ALTERNATIVES
2 and 4 May


> final paper due (Monday, 9 May, 6:15 pm)