

MACQUARIE  
UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

***ECON356***  
***Evolution of Economic Ideas***

***Session 1, 2012***

*Department of Economics*

**MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS  
UNIT GUIDE**

**Year and Semester:** Semester 1, 2012

**Unit convenor:** Dr Wylie Bradford

**Prerequisites:** [ECON110](#) and [ECON111](#) and 6cp at 200 level in units offered by the Faculty of Business and Economics

**Credit points:** 3

Students in this unit should read this unit guide carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.

#### **ABOUT THIS UNIT**

Why is economics the way it is? How are modern approaches to analysis related to past contributions? Has there been progress in economics, and how would we know? What is the place of the history of economic thought in the history of ideas more generally? The answer to these and many other fascinating questions are the focus of this unit. The history of economic thought is considered from a non-standard but enlightening perspective: rather than trace through the chronology of authors and schools we examine the evolution of theories and theoretical ideas from their origins (which in some cases stretch back to Greek philosophy) right through to their modern forms. This puts the economics you have already learned into context and allows for a greater appreciation of the historical, social and philosophical influences on the development of economic thought. Examples of the areas covered include the theory of value, the theory of distribution, the theory of growth and the theory of cycles and fluctuations.

#### **TEACHING STAFF**

- Convenor: Dr Wylie Bradford, E4A425

Ph: 98508467

Email: [wylie.bradford@mq.edu.au](mailto:wylie.bradford@mq.edu.au)

#### **CONTACTING STAFF**

- Consultation times: Tuesday 10-12

You are encouraged to seek help at a time that is convenient to you from a staff member teaching on this unit during their regular consultation hours. In special circumstances, an appointment may be made outside regular consultation hours.

Email contact either at my official address or via Moodle is the most effective way to contact me.

Students experiencing significant difficulties with any topic in the unit must seek assistance immediately.

## **CLASSES**

- 3 hours face-to-face teaching per week consisting of 1 x 2 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour tutorial (N.B there are no tutorial classes in Week 1)
- The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at:<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/>

## **REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS**

There is no set text for this unit. A guide to available resources is provided on Moodle.

## **TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED**

- Standard teaching technology (Powerpoint, Lecterns etc).
- Technology requirements: standard (i.e. computer access for submission of assessments and use of Moodle).

## **UNIT WEB PAGE**

- Course material is available on the learning management system (iLearn)

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The learning outcomes of this unit are for students to:

- 1 become familiar with the development of major ideas in the history of economic thought.
- 2 be able to identify the distinguishing characteristics of key schools of thought and stages in the development of economic theory.
- 3 be cognisant of how the major theoretical approaches to the analysis of economic issues, the assumptions on which they are based, and their implications regarding the effects of changes in key parameters are related to the history of economics.

- 4 demonstrate knowledge of the important individual contributors to the development of economics and the nature of their key contributions.
- 5 have the capacity to assess and compare current and historical approaches to economics in light of 2 & 3 above.

## **GRADUATE CAPABILITIES**

In addition to the discipline-based learning objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop the capabilities the University's graduates will need to develop to address the challenges, and to be effective, engaged participants in their world.

This unit contributes to this by developing the following graduate capabilities:

1. Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills (*see below*)
  2. Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking
  3. Effective Communication
  4. Commitment to Continuous Learning
1. Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills: Ability to
    - a. understand existing economic theories
    - b. apply economic theories to practical situations or problems
    - c. critically evaluate and test competing economic theories, comparing predictions to actual outcomes
    - d. examine real world issues from an economic perspective

## **LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

Lectures cover the basic content of the unit. They do not, however, cover the entire content, which must be made up with extra reading and tutorial work. Tutorials consist of student presentations and class discussion.

Students are expected not only to attend classes, but to prepare for them in advance (it helps to know what the class is about!). You are encouraged to ask questions in lectures. You are expected to ask questions in tutorials.

You are required to submit an essay by the due date.

## **RESEARCH AND PRACTICE (*DELETE THOSE NOT APPLICABLE*)**

- This unit uses research from external sources (see guide to resources on Moodle)
- This unit gives you practice in applying research findings in your assignments.

## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

	<b>Assessment Task 1</b>	<b>Assessment Task 2</b>	<b>Assessment Task 3</b>
Title/Name	Tutorial assignment	Essay	Final Exam
Description	Written/spoken	Written	Long answer
Due date	Randomly determined ( <u>twice</u> in Session)	23 April	TBA
Weighting	0.25	0.3	0.45
Grading method - marking criteria/ standards	Coherent and succinct argument in response to specific question(s); Clarity of explanation; Good content, and understanding of source.	Presentation of a coherent, logical argument; Structure; Evidence of critical analysis of the sources used; Use of evidence in support of the argument; Evidence of use of original texts (NOT including passages and phrases that are frequently quoted in secondary works!); Presentation.	Presentation of a coherent, logical argument; Structure; Evidence of critical analysis of the sources used; Evidence of understanding of and reflection upon course material.
Submission method	Electronic/in-class	Electronic	Exam
Feedback	In –class discussion and written	Written feedback on returned essays	Release of final results
Estimated student workload (hours)	6 weeks @ 3 hours per week =18 hours	6 weeks @ 9 hours per week =54 hours	13 weeks @ 9 hours per week =117 hours
Learning outcomes assessed			
1	X	X	X
2	X	X	X
3	X	X	X
4	X	X	X
5	X	X	X
Graduate capabilities			

	Assessment Task 1	Assessment Task 2	Assessment Task 3
assessed			
1	X	X	X
2	X	X	X
3	X	X	X
4	X	X	X

The weights listed for each assessment task in the table above will be used to calculate your raw mark. The raw mark will be derived from a weighted harmonic mean of the individual assessment marks, each expressed as a percentage:

$$RM = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{0.25}{T\%} + \frac{0.3}{E\%} + \frac{0.45}{FE\%}\right)} \times 100$$

where T% = tutorial assessment mark (percentage)  
 E% = essay mark (percentage)  
 FE% = final exam mark (percentage)

**It is important to note that the raw mark is an input into the determination of your final grade, but not the sole determinant. The stated University performance standards associated with particular grades will be taken into account in determining your final result.**

Your final result will be expressed as a Standardised Numerical Grade (SNG). The value of the SNG denotes the level of performance attained (e.g. an SNG of 66 indicates that a student performed at a level sufficient to earn a CR grade but below that of a student with an SNG of 73, while an SNG below 45 indicates that the student has failed to demonstrate sufficient competence to earn a passing grade and so on) and the SNG need not coincide with the calculated raw mark. As the SNG is not a mark *per se* but an index of performance, it follows that statements of the form “I am only x marks away from [insert grade here]” are strictly invalid and no dialogue will be entered into on that basis following the release of final results.

You should also note that the fact that the raw mark is calculated as a weighted harmonic mean has some important implications:

- As the combination of assessment marks is not linear it is not correct to say, for example, that the essay is worth 30 marks or contributes up to 30 marks to the total of 100. In fact the essay has a weight of 0.3 ; its actual contribution to the final raw mark varies with its value and that of the other assessments.

- A zero result in any assessment) will render the calculation of a raw mark impossible and will result therefore in failure in the unit. **A necessary condition for passing the course is non-zero results in all assessments.**
- The harmonic mean punishes inconsistency. If you perform at a HD level in all assessments your raw mark will be consistent with the HD range. A low mark in one assessment will pull your raw mark down by more than if it was calculated as a weighted arithmetic mean (the traditional 'adding up' scenario). Hence it is important to approach each assessment task with the appropriate degree of seriousness in terms of preparation.
- Extensions will not be granted on tutorial assessments. Late submissions will not be accepted. Failure to be present on either occasion when you are required to present will result in a zero mark.
- All essays submitted after the due date will attract marks deductions. Extensions may be obtained by contacting me officially (i.e. an email from your official university @students.mq.edu.au account) **prior to the due date** and notifying me that an extension is being taken. Extensions are subject to the following conditions:
  - The maximum extension allowable is equal to the time period between the notification and the due date (e.g. a notification 5 days prior to the due date permits an extension of no more than 5 days);
  - The mark for essays submitted with an extension will decay exponentially at the rate of 4.1% per day starting from the due date;
  - The minimum mark reduction will be one day's worth.
  - Only one extension is permitted.

The marks for late essays (i.e. submitted after the due date without an extension, or submitted after the extension date for any reason) will decay exponentially at the rate of 20% per day starting from the due date (inclusive of extension, where applicable).

Specific information relating to tutorial and essay assessments will be provided on the unit Moodle site.

- Examination

A final examination is included as an assessment task for this unit to provide assurance that:

- i) the product belongs to the student and
- ii) the student has attained the knowledge and skills tested in the exam.

A 2 hour final examination for this unit will be held during the University Examination period.

The University Examination period in Session 1 2012 is from 12 June to 29 June.

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be

available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations.

[http:// exams.mq.edu.au/](http://exams.mq.edu.au/)

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. The University's policy on special consideration process is available at

[http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special\\_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period. (Individual Faculties may wish to signal when the Faculties' Supplementary Exams are normally scheduled.)

The Macquarie university examination policy details the principles and conduct of examinations at the University. The policy is available at:

<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/examination/policy.htm>

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

The nature of scholarly endeavour, dependent as it is on the work of others, binds all members of the University community to abide by the principles of academic honesty. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- all academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- all academic collaborations are acknowledged
- academic work is not falsified in any way
- when the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

Further information on the academic honesty can be found in the Macquarie University Academic Honesty Policy at

[http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

## GRADES

Macquarie University uses the following grades in coursework units of study:

HD - High Distinction  
D - Distinction  
CR - Credit  
P - Pass  
F - Fail



Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Grading Policy which is available at:  
<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

#### GRADING APPEALS AND FINAL EXAMINATION SCRIPT VIEWING

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first instance. Please read the instructions provided concerning what constitutes a valid grounds for appeal before appealing your grade.

[http://www.businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/new\\_and\\_current\\_students/undergraduate\\_current\\_students/how\\_do\\_i/grade\\_appeals](http://www.businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/new_and_current_students/undergraduate_current_students/how_do_i/grade_appeals)

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The University is committed to equity and fairness in all aspects of its learning and teaching. In stating this commitment, the University recognises that there may be circumstances where a student is prevented by unavoidable disruption from performing in accordance with their ability. A special consideration policy exists to support students who experience serious and unavoidable disruption such that they do not reach their usual demonstrated performance level. The policy is available at:  
[http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special\\_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)

**No consideration will be given to so-called 'misread timetable' cases. Failure to sit a scheduled examination that is not explicable in terms of unavoidable disruption as defined in University policy will result in a Failed Absent (FA) grade for the unit.**

**As special consideration is a form of insurance, economic theory dictates that it not be full, and that it should be priced. Hence, the 'premium' required to be paid is satisfactory performance in within-semester assessment. No student will be granted special consideration in this unit if their combined mark in tutorial and essay assessments is less than 45%.**

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period.

**All students who submit special consideration requests that are subsequently found to be valid will be required to sit a supplementary examination. University policy precludes the addition of marks to students' results as a form of consideration.**

**Students in this unit will sit one final examination only for assessment purposes. If a supplementary examination is granted the result in the scheduled final examination (if any) is automatically rendered null and void, and replaced by the result in the supplementary.**

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Support Services. Details of these and other services for students can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.

## **IT CONDITIONS OF USE**

Access to all student computing facilities within the Faculty of Business and Economics is restricted to authorised coursework for approved units. Student ID cards must be displayed in the locations provided at all times.

Students are expected to act responsibly when using University IT facilities. The following regulations apply to the use of computing facilities and online services:

- Accessing inappropriate web sites or downloading inappropriate material is not permitted. Material that is not related to coursework for approved units is deemed inappropriate.
- Downloading copyright material without permission from the copyright owner is illegal, and strictly prohibited. Students detected undertaking such activities will face disciplinary action, which may result in criminal proceedings.

Non-compliance with these conditions may result in disciplinary action without further notice.

Students must use their Macquarie University email addresses to communicate with staff as it is University policy that the University issued email account is used for official University communication.

## UNIT CALENDAR

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Tutorial</b>
1	1 Mar	Introduction – History of Economic Thought: What, Why, How?	
2	8 Mar	Theory of Value I (Origins, Ancient & Medieval, Pre-Classical)	Intro/admin (5/3)
3	15 Mar	Theory of Value II (Classical)	Aristotle (12/3)
4	22 Mar	Theory of Value III (Classical, Neoclassical)	Aquinas (19/3)
5	29 Mar	Theory Of Value IV (Neoclassical, Modern)	Petty (26/3)
6	5 Apr	Distribution Theory (Origins, Pre-Classical)	Cantillon (2/4)
		<b><i>Mid-semester break</i></b>	
7	26 Apr	Distribution Theory (Classical, Neoclassical)	Smith (23/4)
8	3 May	Distribution Theory (Neoclassical, Modern)	Ricardo (30/4)
9	10 May	Growth Theory (Origins, Pre-Classical)	Marx (7/5)
10	17 May	Growth Theory (Classical)	Marshall (14/5)
11	24 May	Growth Theory (Neoclassical, Modern)/ Fluctuations and Cycles (Origins)	Walras (21/5)
12	31 May	Fluctuations and Cycles (Classical, Crisis Theories, Neoclassical)	Keynes (28/5)
13	7 June	Fluctuations and Cycles (Modern)	Hicks (4/6)