

Econ. 398

Senior Seminar in Economics

(Capstone Course)

T/Th 9:30-10:45

Instructor: Professor M. Podgursky

223 Professional Bldg

882-4574

office hours by appt.

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<http://web.missouri.edu/~econ4mp/welcome.htm>

Required texts:

Friedman, Milton. Capitalism and Freedom. U. of Chicago Press. 1962

Landsburg, Stephen. The Armchair Economist: Economics and Everyday Life. Free Press, 1993

Martin Wolf. Why Globalization Works. Yale University Press. 2004.

Other readings will be placed on the course web site, copied, or distributed electronically.

Grades

Your grade will be based on class presentations and participation, two exams, and a paper. The paper will survey economic research on particular area of policy interest. The paper topics, along with a list of references, must be approved in advance of the paper. Further guidelines will be distributed during the semester.

Weights: Class presentations (20%), exams/reaction papers (50%), paper (30%)

In addition, you will be required to sign up for and take the ETS standardized exam in economics. This type of exit exam for seniors is required by the MU administration. In economics we incorporate this exam into our capstone class.

Topic Areas

The Case for Markets. Friedman, Landsburg, Scheifer

Globalization and Free Trade; Wolf, ERP ch.

Social Security Reform

Social Security Administration. Annual Report 2004. Summary

ERP, 2004, ch. 6

John, Heritage Foundation

Health Care

ERP, 2004, ch. 10

Cutler, Brookings

Gale, Brookings

School Choice and School Finance

Tiebout,

Hoxby, JEP, 1996

Hoxby, charter schools

Ladd,

Neal

Mo. School finance case

Schedule

Jan 18
Jan 20
Jan 25
Jan 27

Introduction

Feb 1
Feb 3
Feb 8
Feb 10
Feb 15
Feb 17
Feb 22
Feb 24

March 1
March 3
March 8
March 10
March 15
March 17
March 29
March 31

April 5
April 7
April 12
April 14
April 19
April 21
April 26
April 28

May 3
May 5