

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY  
McNichols Campus  
Economics 470/500  
ECONOMICS FOR TEACHERS  
Term I (September-December 2002)

TEACHER: James Mosby  
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TEXTS” James L. Gilbertie and Larry R. Dale, *Economics for Classroom Teachers*, 1997.  
Langston Hughes, *The Big Sea*, (c) 1940, 1993  
*Sunday New York Times*, www.nytimes.com

This is a course for teachers who are interested in developing a better understanding of the relationship between economics and the other disciplines they are teaching. Given the cultural framework, in economics we are concerned with-

- a) how a society organizes its scarce resources-land, human capital, physical capital (plant and equipment), and social capital- to produce goods and services.
- b) how goods and services are distributed in a democratic society.
- c) the decisions affecting future standards of living.

Focusing on the economic standards in the Social Sciences and in American Literature (with particular reference to the relationship of the literary style of the Harlem Renaissance period to economic development), in this course we begin to examine teaching techniques and materials that will help teachers present these concepts to elementary, middle, and high school students. Teachers are encouraged to enhance the development of social capital to empower their students.

TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

I. Foundations of Economic Analysis (September 3 and 10, 2002)

Text, Chapters 1 and 2

- a) A Brief History of Economic Time
  - Thomas Jefferson, “The Declaration of Independence” and James Madison, Federalists 10 & 49, in Clinton Rossiter (ed.), *The Federalist Papers* (New York: Penguin Putnam Inc.), 1999 edition.
  - Charles A. Beard, *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*, (New York: The Free Press), 1986 Edition Introduction to the 1935 Edition and Ch. VI, *The Constitution as an Economic Document*.
- b) Economic Methodology (Microeconomics & Macroeconomics; Positivism & Normativism)
- c) Interpreting Maps, Charts, Tables, and Graphs
- d) Scarcity and Choice (Production Possibilities)
- e) Specialization and Allocation Systems

II. Culture and Economic Development (September 17, 24 and October 1, 2002  
Madeleine Albright, "Women's Rights Around the World", New York City Bar  
Association, 12/12/01

Paula England, "The Separative Self: Androcentric Bias in Neoclassical Assumptions",  
in Marianne A. Ferber and Julie A. Nelson (eds.), *Beyond Economic Man: Feminist  
Theory and Economics*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993.

L. Joy, "Why are Women Underrepresented in Public School Administration? An  
Empirical Test of Promotion Discrimination," *Economics of Education Review*, 17(2),  
April 1998

Francis Fukuyama, "Culture and Economic Development", *Encyclopedia of the  
Behavioral Sciences*, 2002  
"Social Capital", in Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington  
(eds.), *Culture Matters*, NY: Basic Books, 2000

James S. Coleman, "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital", *American Journal  
of Sociology Supplement*, 1988

Benjamin Higgins, "Cultural Determinism", *Economic Development: Principles  
Problems and Policies*, Ch.12, 1968

Orlando Patterson, "Taking Culture Seriously: A Frame work and an Afro-American  
Illustration", in Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington (eds.), *Culture Matters*, NY:  
Basic Books, 2000

Bontemps, Arna, "Home of the Brave." in *100 Years of Negro Freedom*, Ch13, NY:  
Dodd, Mead & Company, 1961.

Zora Neale Hurston, "How it feels to be colored me", *The World Tomorrow*, 1928  
"Bathed in Light" in Sondra Wilson (ed.) *The Opportunity Reader*,  
1999

Langston Hughes, "Black Renaissance", *The Big Sea*, Part III, NY: Hill and Wang,  
1940 (c), 1993

Akiba Sullivan Harper, "The Apple of His Eye: DuBois on Hughes", *The Langston  
Hughes Review*, Fall 1986

James Mosby, "Langston Hughes and Economic Development", working paper,  
University of Detroit Mercy, February, 2002

III. Teaching in an Urban Setting (October 8 and 15, 2002)

Mortimer J. Adler, "The Order of Learning," 1941, in Malcolm Carron and Alfred Cavanaugh (eds.), *Readings on Philosophy of Education*, Detroit: University of Detroit Press, 1960.

Linda Winfield, "Teacher Beliefs Toward Academically At-Risk Students in Inner City Urban Schools," *The Urban Review*, 18(4), 1986.

James P. Comer, "Educating Poor Minority Children", *Scientific American*, 259(5), 1988

James Traub, "What No School Can Do," *Sunday New York Times Magazine Section*, January 16, 2000.

Jacques Barzun, "What is a School?", Trinity University, 10/24/01

Benjamin Demott, "Rediscovering Complexity," *The Atlantic*, September 1988.

\* Midterm Examination (October 22, 2002)

IV. Microeconomic Standards (October 29 and November 5, 2002)

Text, Chapters 3, 4, and 5

a) The American Market Economy

b) The Business Sector

John Chambers, Cisco Systems, President and CEO, "Information Technology and Productivity", National Governors Association, July 14, 2002

Samuel DiPiazza, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, CEO, "Building Public Trust: The Future of Corporate Reporting", National Press Club, 6/17/02

c) Supply and Demand

Stephen Buckles and Michael Watts, "National Standards in Economics, History, Social Studies, Civics, and geography: Complementarities, Competition, or Peaceful Coexistence?" *Journal of Economic Education*, 29(2), Spring 1998.

V. Macroeconomic Standards (November 12 and November 19, 2002)

Text, Chapters 11, 12, 15, and 18

a) National Income Accounting

b) The Financial System and the Economy

c) Economic Policy

d) International Trade

VI. Measuring Academic Achievement (November 26 and December 3, 2002)

Anita Summers and Barbara Wolfe, "Do Schools Make a Difference?" *American Economic Review*, 67(4), September 1977.

Burton A. Weisbrod, "External Effects of Investment in Education," in Mark Blaug (ed.), *Economics of Education*, (New York: Pergamon Press), 1971.

## Measuring Achievement Motivation-Readings TBA

Eric A. Hanushek, "Conclusions and Controversies about the Effectiveness of School Resources," Federal Reserve Bank of New York-Economic Policy Review, 4(1), March 1998.

Patricia Lines, "Home schooling Comes of Age." The Public Interest, 140, Summer 2000

Cecilia E. Rouse, "Schools and Achievement: More Evidence from the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program," Federal Reserve Bank of New York-Economic Policy Review, 4(1), 1998.

James Traub, "The Test Mess", Sunday New York Times Magazine, April 7, 2002

## The Michigan Charter School Initiative-Readings TBA

Zelman, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Ohio, et al. v. Simmons-Harris, et al.: Certiorari of the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, June 27, 2002

Karen Schulz, et al., "Taming the MEAP Monster", MEA Voice, vol. 79, issue 3, November, 2001

\* Final Take Home Examination (due Tuesday December 19, 2002) covers topics from Section III (Teaching in an Urban Setting), Section IV (Microeconomics), Section V (Macroeconomics), and Section VI (Measuring Academic Achievement). The final grade will be based on a weighted average of your performance on the two examinations with 50% to your higher score and 40% to your lower score. Students will work on team assignments which will contribute 10 percent to your final grade.