The discipline of economics is rich in diversity and contending perspectives. This is as true today as it has been historically. Indeed, much of the current controversy over goals, methods, and theoretical structures, is rooted in a fertile intellectual tradition of contending perspectives. This course is an introduction to some of the major contemporary contending perspectives in economics—heterodox economics. Exposure to these alternatives is essential to an understanding of today's economic issues. The currently dominant theoretical perspective in economics, the neoclassical paradigm, is useful to understand some aspects of some economic problems, but, as with other ways of seeing, it is simultaneously a way of not seeing. As you will discover as we examine the alternatives, different perspectives shed light of different intensity depending on the topic. This course traces out the historical evolution of different perspectives in economics and focuses on the core methods and theory of contemporary contending economic perspectives.

TEXTBOOKS:
(BBDoc) Blackboard “Course Documents"
(BBMat) Blackboard “Course Materials”
(BBLinks) Blackboard “External Links”

BLACKBOARD:
There is a Blackboard web site for this course (http://blackboard.dickinson.edu). To log on for the first time your password is set to your user name, you can change your password once you log on.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. Prepare for each class by doing the readings and thinking about the material in advance. Lectures are designed to clarify and extend the assigned readings. The success of the course depends upon your thoughtful discussion. Your meaningful participation in class is worth up to 10 points and includes attendance, the quality and quantity of your comments and questions, your attentiveness and the seriousness with which you engage the course materials. (See Blackboard Assignments for grading point scale).

2. GRADING:
Preparation, participation, & discussion 10 points
Two term exams (30 points each) 60 points
One Take Home Exam 10 points
Final Project/Presentation 20 points
For your Final Project you will be assigned to a small group based on a particular book selected from a provided list of books. Your group will then write up a 3-4 page summary of author’s thesis and key supporting arguments. This will be followed by 2-3 page appraisal from a radical, institutionalist, and feminist economic perspective. Using PowerPoint your group will make a class presentation based on your paper. (Further details will be posted on Blackboard “Assignments”).

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

I. **PERSPECTIVES IN CONTENTION**

   BBDOC “A Brief History of the Post-Autistic Economics Movement” Post Autistic Economics Network [www.paecon.net](http://www.paecon.net)


   BBDOC Faculty “French Petition for a Debate on the Teaching of Economics” July 2000. [www.paecon.net](http://www.paecon.net)

   BBDOC “Economics at Notre Dame: An Open Letter” [www.paecon.net](http://www.paecon.net)


II. **INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS**

   A. **Introduction and Historical Origins**

      Institutional Economics Reader, Part I:

      Intro & Chs 1-2

   B. **Institutions of Modern Capitalism**

      1. **Markets**

         IER, Ch.3

         BBDOC Karl Polanyi Chapter 4 “Societies and Economics Systems” from The Great Transformation.

      2. **Technology and the Corporation**

         IER, Ch.4

         BBDOC: Joel Bakan The Corporation Chs 1-3.

      3. **Government**

         IER, Ch.6

   C. **Economy & Society**

      IER, Ch.7

   D. **Institutionalist Reform Ideas**

      IER, Ch.8

III. **RADICAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

   A. **Marxian Origins**

      Radical Political Economy, Ch. 1.

   B. **Contemporary Radical Economics**

      1. **Method and Core Concepts**

         RPE, Ch.2.

         BBDoc Howard Sherman How Society Makes Itself Chs 2-4
2. **Theory of Production and Work**  
   RPE, Ch.3.

3. **The Capitalist System**  
   RPE, Ch.4.

4. **The Macrodynamics of Capitalism**  
   RPE, Ch. 5.

5. **Visions for the Future**  
   a. **Democratic Capitalism vs. Democratic Socialism**  
   RPE, Ch. 6.
   b. **Economic Democracy**  
   RPE, Ch. 6.

IV. **FEMINIST ECONOMICS**

A. **Introduction: Why Gender Matters**  
   **BBDoc** Institute for Women's Policy Research Fact Sheet “The Gender Wage Gap”
   **BBDoc** Bradley Schiller “Sex Discrimination in Labor Market”
   **BBDoc** Nelson, Julie. *Feminism, Objectivity, & Economics*, Intro

B. **Core Concepts**  
   **BBDoc** Nelson, p.1-3; Chs 1-2

C. **Family Economics**  
   **BBDOC** Francine Blau, Marianne Ferber, and Anne Winkler. Ch 3  

D. **Feminist Economic Policies: Work and Family**  
   **BBDOC** Blau, Ferber, and Winkler. Ch 10 “Policies Affecting Paid Work and Family” *The Economics of Women*....

V. **EXTENDING OUR ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES**  
   Advanced readings in heterodox economics
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Course Intro Part I.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>II.A Institutional Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>II.B.1</td>
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<td>September 25</td>
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<td>III.A Radical Economics</td>
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<td>III.B.1</td>
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<td>October 30</td>
<td>III.B.5 (p 103-121)</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>III.B.5 (p 121-131)</td>
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<td>November 6</td>
<td>Exam</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
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<td>November 18</td>
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<td>November 20</td>
<td>IV.D</td>
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<td>November 25</td>
<td>V. Presentations</td>
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<td>November 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>V. Presentations</td>
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<td>December 4</td>
<td>V. Presentations</td>
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<td>Weds Dec 10</td>
<td>Final Paper Due</td>
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<td>Take-Home Exam Due</td>
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