



#### January 10: Introduction

Critique in class: Alan S. Blinder, “The Economics of Brushing Teeth,” *Journal of Political Economy*, pp. 887 – 891. Discussion of main elements of an empirical paper.

#### January 17: Economic Methodology: Theory--Assumptions

1. \*John Neville Keynes, *The Scope and Method of Economic Science*, Chapters
2. Anthony Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments* 2d ed. 1992. Read the entire book.
2. Milton Friedman, “The Methodology of Positive Economics,” chapter 1 in *Essays in Positive Economics*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953.
3. Ernest Nagel, “Assumptions in Economic Theory,” *American Economic Review*, May 1963, Proceedings, pp. 211 – 219.
4. Paul Samuelson, Comment on Ernest Nagel’s “Assumptions in Economic Theory,” *American Economic Review*, May 1963, Proceedings, pp. 231 – 236.
5. Ronald H. Coase, “How Should Economists Choose?,” chapter 2 in *Essays on Economics and Economists*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994.

#### January 24: Economic Rhetoric

1. Donald N. McCloskey, *If You’re So Smart: The Narrative of Economic Expertise*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990. Chapters 1 – 5.

#### January 31: Economic Rhetoric (cont.)

1. Donald N. McCloskey, *If You’re So Smart*, Chapters 6 – 11
2. Donald N. McCloskey, “The Rhetoric of Mathematical Formalism: Existence Theorems,” chapter 10 in *Knowledge and Persuasion in Economics*, Cambridge: The Cambridge University Press, 1994.
3. James A. Dunlevy and Henry A. Gemery, “Economic Opportunity and the Responses of ‘Old’ and ‘New’ Migrants to the United States,” *Journal of Economic History*, December 1978, pp. 901 – 917. (for you to critique in terms of the rhetorical tetrad.)

#### February 7: Quantitative Methods

1. Jan Kmenta, *Elements of Econometrics*, 2d ed. Macmillan, 1986. Chapter 5, “Tests of Hypotheses.”
2. Donald N. McCloskey, “The Rhetoric of Significance Tests,” chapter 9 in *The Rhetoric of Economics*, Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1985.
3. Zvi Griliches, “Data and Econometricians—The Uneasy Alliance,” *American Economic Review*, May 1985, Proceedings, pp. 196 – 200.
4. Edward E. Leamer, “Let’s Take the Con out of Econometrics,” *American Economic Review*, March 1983, pp. 31 – 43.

Bring to class an article, presumably related to the area in which you will write your exit paper. I will “approve” (or not) the article for your efforts over the next few weeks.

Distribution of Faculty Research Proposal and Paper for discussion next week: get from Professor Even’s homepage (under working papers) “Rising Above the Minimum Wage,” and read it carefully.

February 14: Discussion with Faculty of Research Proposals and Research Methods

1. Ronald H. Coase, "Economics and Contiguous Disciplines," *Essays on Economics and Economists*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994.

Discussion with Professor William Even of Research Techniques.

Distribution of Faculty Research Paper for discussion next week

February 18: Economics Department Seminar

Professor Barry Chiswick, University of Illinois—Chicago, "Immigrant Earnings: Language Skills, Linguistic Concentrations and the Business Cycle"

You are invited and urged to attend. (Sandy has copies of the paper.)

Thursday, February 17:

Distribute a copy of your first paper to classmates and instructor. You need to read and critique all of these papers for next class (see below)

February 22: Reductionism (and Macroeconomics); Discussion with Faculty of Research Agenda

Monday/Tuesday Switch Day

1. Geoffrey M. Hodgson, "Institutions and the Viability of Macroeconomics: Some Perspectives on the Transformation Process in Post-Communist Economies," *Journal for Institutional Innovation, Development and Transition*, vol 2. 1998, pp. 5 – 18.

Discussion with Professor Dennis Sullivan on his research.

Class presentation of papers and discussion. You will have 12 minutes (max!!) to present your paper.

Keep in mind that the presentation is to an audience that has read your paper. Do not try to repeat all that is in your paper; rather provide motivation and results. You should also be ready to answer questions both on the paper you read, on your paper, and on how you went about doing your paper. The sequence of who goes first etc. Will be decided by lot.

Your Paper: The paper should be some 5 – 6 pages long. It should critique the paper that you have read.

You should consider: 1. an introduction: what is the objective of the paper you read; 2. how does the author *intend* to achieve his goal; 3. overview of your evaluation of the paper; 4. details of your critiques (motivation, theory, data, 'metrics, logic, completeness, validity of inferences; use of rhetorical tetrad); 5. are you convinced by the argument; 6. your summary.

February 28: Cliometrics/Economic History: Discussion with Faculty

1. Donald M. McCloskey, *Econometric History*, London: Macmillan Education Ltd., 1987.

A short (fewer than 90 pages) and lively read.

Discussion of research with faculty (t.b.a.)

Selection of 2d paper for critiquing: bring a paper for approval.

March 3: Economics Department Seminar

Professor Thomas Ulen, University of Illinois—Champaign-Urbana, Law School

: Removing the Rationality Assumption from Law and Economics."

You are invited to attend. Sandy has copies of the paper (100+ pages long)

March 6:

Discussion of the Chiswick and Ulen papers and seminars.

March 8: Economics Department Seminar

Dr. Robert Schoeni, RAND Corporation, "The Effects of Welfare Reform & Welfare Waivers on Welfare Participation, Employment, Income, Poverty, and Family Structure."

You are invited to attend. Bob is a graduate of the Miami masters program.

March 20: Welcome Back from Spring Break

Distribution of 2d paper to classmates and instructor. (Can we have a Wednesday class?)

March 22: Presentation and Discussion of Papers

Same format as before.

March 24: Economics Department Seminar

Professor Lowell Taylor, Carnegie-Mellon University [postponed]

March 27:

Discussion of objectives of exit papers.

Have a Literature Review article for approval.

Week of April 3: Individually Scheduled meetings

April 7: Economics Department Seminar

Professor Robin Sickles, Rice University

April 10:

Discussion of Literature Review articles.

Week of April 17: Individually Scheduled Meetings

April 24:

Group discussion of progress to date.

April 28:

Submit your paper, 20 – 30 pages of research prospectus and literature review. Provide a copy of the paper to your Exit paper supervisor as well.