

Vesalius College

Course description

Course title: Comparative Economic Systems

Course code: ECN 302E

Teacher responsible: Robert Scott Gassler

Course description:

Theories of capitalism and socialism, both neoclassical and Marxist. Recent evolution of advanced capitalist economies: USA, UK, Belgium, France, Germany, Japan and others. Historical background and current transformation of Russia, China, and other socialist and ex-socialist countries. Some attention to international organizations such as NAFTA, EU. Together with ECN 304, this course covers the entire world economy.

Prerequisite: ECN 104 or 101.

Course objectives:

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Describe the major theoretical models covered in class verbally, geometrically, and in some cases mathematically.
2. Apply these models to the solution of numerical problems and simple narrative cases.

Describe the limitations of the models in both theory and application.

Grade weighting scheme:

First Midterm Examination	20%
Second Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	30%
Term paper	30%
Proposal and Preliminary Bibliography	5%
Descriptive Outline	5%
First Draft	5%
Final Paper	15%

Used course material (handbooks, readers, readings, newspapers, magazines) and references:

Gardner, H. Stephen. *Comparative Economic Systems*. 2nd Ed. Dryden Press, 1997. ISBN: 0030328225

Giatzidis, Emil. *An introduction to post-communist Bulgaria*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2002. (ISBN 0-7190-6095-8)