

**RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE**  
**Economics Program**

Political Economy  
ECON 3636 (W2)

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Spring 2013

**A. Overview:** Each student will write a 9 – 10 page (double-spaced) paper (not including reference list) summarizing a scholarly debate either (a) among political economists or (b) between political economists and mainstream economists. Each student will choose his/her own topic by starting with a recent article in a political economy journal. The point of the paper is to accurately and fairly summarize and critically evaluate competing arguments. You may introduce your own conclusion or remain agnostic.

These papers must: (a) fairly and accurately summarize two or three positions on a theoretical, empirical, or methodological debate; (b) relate the debate to concepts and theoretical positions presented in the course; (c) demonstrate the ability to research and analyze academic sources such as scholarly journals and studies, not just popular internet sources. Each student will orally present the main findings of the paper after submitted a polished draft and prior to writing and submitting the final version of the paper.

Sources: Your reference list must include at least ten (10) sources; the rubric provides more details on the types of sources expected. They should include scholarly journal articles, working papers, and books. These scholarly sources may be supplemented by other sources, including web pages. Feel free to use some of the readings from the course, but you will also want to demonstrate independent research. You may only use Wikipedia or any similar source for one source, and only if you are confident about the credibility of the material used and the source. Know your sources and be able to defend why you find them credible. Use APA style for in-text citations and for your reference list.

**B. Guidance on Writing Your Papers:** Here are some useful web sites that will help you write a literature review paper:

- Writing a Literature Review Paper (Excellent video presentation from San Jose State University Library):  
<http://library.sjsu.edu/video/writing-literature-review-paper>
- Literature Reviews (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill):  
<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/>

These are more general sources that will also be helpful:

- Writing a Research Paper (Purdue Online Writing Lab):  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/02/>  
This source explains the difference between an **argumentative paper** and an **analytical paper**. This assignment is an analytical paper, while your short essays are argumentative. Purdue OWL is an OUTSTANDING resource for all writing assignments.
- The Seven Steps of the Research Process (Cornell University Library):  
<http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/skill1.htm>  
This is a great explanation about finding and evaluating sources.
- Writing Economics Research Papers (Pitzer College Economics Department):  
[http://www.pitzer.edu/academics/field\\_groups/economics/papers.asp](http://www.pitzer.edu/academics/field_groups/economics/papers.asp)  
The clear advantage here is that it is focused on economics papers.

I also strongly encourage you to work with the Writing Tutors at Stockton's Writing Center EARLY in the process of refining your topic. They can work with you on defining your thesis, working with appropriate sources, and organizing your ideas, as well as the nitty gritty details of grammar, citations, and references.

In order to ensure that you are using sources that incorporate a political economy perspective (even if you argue against a political economy position), you should utilize the journals and web sources that are introduced throughout the semester. You may also refer to the list at the end of these guidelines. For general economics sources, the Stockton Library suggests these databases for searching for academic journals and other scholarly materials:  
<http://libguides.stockton.edu/cat.php?cid=24884>

### C. Steps to Completing Your Research Paper:

Your grade will be based upon successful completion of several steps leading up to writing the paper, as well as the paper itself. You will accumulate points for each part of the process leading up to the final paper (totaling a maximum of 50 points). You must complete the previous step before I will accept an assignment. You cannot skip a step. Late submissions will face grade penalties.

The polished draft and final paper will be graded according to a **rubric** that you will be available on Blackboard by the third week of class. **This project is thus worth almost half of the points in the course grade, so do not procrastinate. Please note from the outset that the paper should incorporate some insights from class work, as well as your additional research.**

**Step 1: Find and analyze an appropriate article in one of the following heterodox economics journals. Due date is Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> (10 points)** Most are available electronically through the Library:

*Review of Radical Political Economics* (Union of Radical Political Economists)  
*Journal of Economic Issues* (Association for Evolutionary Economics)  
*Review of Social Economy* (Association for Social Economics)  
*Forum for Social Economics* (Association for Social Economics)  
*Journal of Socio-Economics*  
*Rethinking Marxism*  
*Feminist Economics* (International Association for Feminist Economics)  
*Journal of Behavioral Economics*  
*Politics and Society*  
*Monthly Review*  
*Real World Economics Review* (online only): <http://www.paecon.net/PAEReview/>

The article you select and summarize will determine the topic for your literature summary. To earn these points, you must turn in a typed analysis of the article, approximately 2 pages single-spaced, answering the following questions:

1. Summarize, in your own words, the thesis or conclusion of the article.
2. According to the author(s), how do(es) his/her/their conclusion differ from the position of previous scholars?
3. What methodology does the article use to support the argument: theoretical argument based on logic, quantitative research, qualitative research, historical research, or case study analysis?
4. Why are the findings important, according to the author(s)?
5. How did the author(s) approach the research question differently than those taking a different position?
6. Why is this topic of interest to you?

I would be happy to meet with you to determine if the article you have selected is appropriate.

**Step 2: Turn in an annotated bibliography of references, using APA style on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> (10 points). Submit this on Turnitin by 4:00 p.m.**

An annotated bibliography lists each source using APA format (in alphabetical order). **Each source is followed by a short abstract** summarizing the main ideas and conclusions of the source material and reflecting on how this might contribute to your literature summary. For guidelines and models of annotated bibliographies, see the following pdf document from the Teaching American History web site: <http://www.tahvt.org/AnnotatedBibExample.pdf>

By this date, you should have located 6 – 8 *appropriate* sources, including your original article. They should include:

- Minimum of 1 book or book chapter (scholarly or trade)
- Minimum 3 scholarly journal articles (in addition to your original article), at least one of which is from a heterodox economics journal
- Minimum of 1 credible web sources (e.g.: government, policy analysts, news, educational)
- No more than one general web reference (e.g. Wikipedia).

**“Appropriate”** means that the source is (a) relevant to your topic and (b) reputable. You may include one or two of the course readings, but you must have at least 4 additional sources. I will evaluate the appropriateness of source for your topic, your summary of the material, and the format of the citation in assigning up to 10 points. You will lose 1 point for each calendar day it is late.

**Information on APA style is available from the Library web site.** This step will enable you to make sure that you know how to properly format your references prior to submitting your paper.

**Step 3: Write a polished draft of your introduction to your paper and bring copies to class on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. (5 points)**

Your introduction should hook the reader’s attention and introduce them to your research question. It should also clearly state the thesis of your paper. Your thesis will be descriptive, not prescriptive, and will summarize the key area of contention on your topic.

**Bring 5 copies of your introduction to class.** You will work in small groups to critically evaluate each others’ introductions. I will assign you to groups based on a variety of factors. I will also evaluate the clarity and organization of your introduction, assigning up to 5 points. If you are not in class or your introduction is late, you can earn a maximum of 3 points.

**Step 4: Turn in Version 1 (a POLISHED draft) of your paper on Turnitin by Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> (20 points) You may turn your paper in early.**

I will grade these papers according to the rubric and you will know the grade that you would receive on the paper if no changes were made. The rubrics will be returned on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. I will also use the GRADEMARK function in Turnitin to make detailed comments; please pay attention to these in revising your paper.

You have the option of accepting the initial grade or revising the paper using my comments and suggestions. If you revise, I do expect you to pay attention to both the rubric and the GRADEMARK comments. Late assignments will NOT be accepted; you will lose the 20 points AND 10 points will be deducted from the grade on your final paper.

**For both Version 1 and your final paper: you will receive zero (0) points if your paper does not have a properly formatted reference list, if you do not incorporate in-text parenthetical citations, or if there is evidence of plagiarism.**

**Step 5: Class presentation (5 minutes) summarizing your paper. No PowerPoint. (5 points)**

You will be scheduled to present on either April 29 or May 1.

**Step 6: Turn in your final, revised paper NO LATER THAN Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 p.m. on the Turnitin class site. Late papers will be accepted until 11:00 p.m. the following day, with a 10-point deduction from your grade. Each additional day of lateness will lose 10 points from your grade.**

#### **D. Additional sources for research in heterodox economics**

##### Web sites

- International Confederation of Associations for Pluralism in Economics: <http://icape.org/>  
(Links to ICAPE associates will give you other web sites)
- Heterodox Economics Portal: [www.hetecon.com](http://www.hetecon.com)
- Political Economy Research Institute <http://www.peri.umass.edu/>
- Triple Crisis: <http://www.triplecrisis.com/>
- Center for Popular Economics: <http://populareconomics.org>
- Post-autistic Economics Network: <http://www.paecon.net/PAEmovementindex1.htm>
- Heterodox economics links (sponsored by URPE):  
<http://www.urpe.org/het/heterodoxhome.html>
- The Economic Conversation: <http://www.theeconomicconversation.com/>
- ECON4 web site: <http://econ4.org/news>