



Research
Education
Outreach

CCA

Allievi Program

Tutorial in Economics

Fall 2024

Instructors: Christoph Albert and Brett McCully

Contact Information for Brett McCully

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Objective of the course

In this course we present an introduction to economic problems and, more importantly, economic reasoning. Our first objective is to illustrate the questions economists aim to answer. We show how economics deals with issues of diverse nature, like:

- Why did humankind advance from hunter-gatherer societies to modern industrialized ones?
- Why are some countries poor while others are rich?
- How do immigrants affect natives?

Our second objective is to describe the methods economists use to answer these widely diverse questions.

Structure of the class

Students and instructors meet weekly to discuss the contents of the class. Before each meeting, students should read the assigned material, in order to organize the discussion around it.

Readings

This course will focus on the following books:

- Oded Galor, "The Journey of Humanity," 2022

- Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, “Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything,” William Morrow, 2006
- Richard H. Thaler, “Misbehaving,” W. W. Norton Company, 2016

Missing classes

Because this course is discussion based, if you miss a class, you must first notify the instructor and then submit a one-page essay summarizing and discussing your thoughts about that week’s readings.

Grading

70% essays

30% discussion

Essay assignment

For each half of the course you will have to write one essay. The essay should be approximately 1.5 pages long.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Instructor	Readings
23/9	McCully	
30/9	McCully	Ch. 1 and 2, Galor
7/10	McCully	Ch. 3 and 4, Galor
14/10	McCully	Ch. 5, 6, and “Coda”, Galor
21/10	No class	
28/10	No class	
3/11		Prof. McCully’s essay due
4/11	Albert	Ch. 7 and 8, Galor
11/11	Albert	Ch. 9 and 10, Galor
18/11	Albert	Ch. 12 and 13, Galor
25/11	Albert	- Freakonomics, ch. 4 and 5 - Foote, Christopher L. and Goetz, Christopher F., Testing Economic Hypotheses with State-Level Data: A Comment on Donohue and Levitt (November 22, 2005). FRB Boston Working Paper No. 05-15 - Thaler, ch. 1
08/12	Albert	Albert’s essay due