

Econ 6E Money as a Cultural, Economic and Social Institution

Fall 2004 (Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00-9:15)

Michael K. Salemi, 301 Gardner Hall

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 15:00-16:00, Tuesday, 14:00-15:00, and by appointment.

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Course Goals

This course is a first year seminar that offers an introduction to the intellectual life of UNC. It is not a formal introduction to economics. By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Explain how both money and banks evolved as social and economic institutions.
2. Interpret a variety of classic and contemporaneous writings that address the essential nature of money and the role of banks as economic institutions.
3. Use economic concepts such as demand, supply and opportunity cost to answer questions about money and banks.
4. Explain what an interest rate is and the role of interest payments in the cultural, social, and economic development of money and banks.
5. Know key facts about the monetary history of the United States.
6. Understand the role of banks in a modern financial system.
7. Know what a central bank is and the role central banks play in modern economies.
8. Present your own arguments in written and oral form.

Dates

October 21 Midterm Examination

November 18 Course Paper Due

December 9 8:00-11:00, Final Examination

Examinations and Grades

There are 100 possible points in the course: 25 for the midterm examination, 30 points for the course paper, 30 points for the final examination, and 15 points for exercises and quizzes. Letter grades are based on total points and not on an average of letter grades. The final examination is cumulative. Late work is penalized. There are no makeup examinations for missed midterms. A student who misses a midterm examination must provide an adequate explanation (and documentation where appropriate) to the instructor and may then transfer missed midterm exam points to the final exam. The course will adhere strictly to UNC procedures for final examinations.

What Students Will Do in This Course

For each topic, the course will provide a combination of lectures and hands-on activities such as class discussion of readings. For some activities, students will work in groups.

Attendance

Because class activities are an important part of this course, **very regular attendance** is expected of every student. Pop quizzes will be given at the instructor's discretion. Students who are not willing to attend very regularly should drop the course.

Course Paper Assignment

Specifications: There is no length requirement *per se* but it is expected that the typical paper will be 5 to 7 double-spaced, typed pages with one-inch margins and 12 point type font. The paper must include a list of cited works including page numbers of quoted or paraphrased passages.

Suggested Topics: It is suggested that you choose one of the course topics for your paper topic. One strategy for writing the paper would be to choose the course topic that most interested you, locate at least one reading source on that topic beyond those required in the course, and write a paper that explains what the reading has (readings have) to say about the topic. The syllabus lists some optional relevant readings. Students who want to take a different approach are invited to discuss their ideas with Professor Salemi.

Progress Report: Students are to complete a one-page progress report that is due two weeks before the paper is due. The purpose of the report is to give students feedback on their topic and plan. The report is required. Completing it carefully will save you time and help you write a better paper.

The progress report should:

1. Describe the topic of your paper,
2. List the sources you will use to support the argument of your paper, and
3. Provide a plan for the paper in outline form.

You may not write your paper until your topic and outline are approved. If I believe your paper will not be successful, I will ask you to revise your plan and rewrite your report.

Late Penalty: Students will be penalized one point **per calendar day** for late submission of their papers. A paper not submitted by the final exam is worth zero.

Electronic Communication: Students may correspond about their papers by email. They may use email to submit their progress reports. **They may not submit their term papers electronically.** They must give a printed copy of the paper to the professor.

Honor Code: The paper must represent original work by the student completed during the current semester. All quotations and paraphrased material must be identified as such in the text.

Evaluation: The paper is 30 percent of the course grade. The rubric used to grade course papers is posted on the course web page. In your paper, you should demonstrate your ability to critically evaluate the arguments you encounter in course reading. You are expected to use standard English in writing your papers. Poorly written papers will not be accepted and their authors will be required to re-write them.

Course Paper Due Dates:

November 2	Progress Report Due
November 4	Progress Report returned
November 18	Term Paper Due
December 2	Panel Discussion of Course Papers