

Syllabus for Econ 901

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Philosophy: A Ph.D. in economics is not something that you receive after completing some set of tasks. It is not a hurdle, a right of passage, or a union card. It is not something that you earn. It is something that you become. When you have a Ph.D. in economics, you are an economist. Course work is merely meant to help you become an economist. You must have personal intellectual inspiration. Grades and course rules should be moot. The following rules should be interpreted in this light.

The reading list, notes, assignments, and such are posted on my web site. These are continuously updated. In particular, addenda are often included in the notes after each lecture.

Class

Format: Lecture. Students should study associated material from reading list both before and after it is presented in class. Notes on lectures are available before material is presented; annotations and revisions will come after. Lectures are currently posted on my web page: 'www.clemson.edu/~maloney'. The course will follow this list of lectures.

Grading: Examinations, pop tests, assignments, and problem sets will be given. The course grade is determined based on my judgment of the likelihood that the student will pass the theory comprehensive on the first try: A=>Yes; B=>maybe; C=>No way. The final exam will be similar to the micro theory comprehensive exam, and I will base my judgment and your grade primarily on your performance on the final.

Attendance: Students should come to class. Please advise me when you cannot.

Assignments: In years past, this course was taught simultaneously with Econ 911. But scheduling issues have changed that. Hence, you will be responsible for working through assignments and problem sets on your own and informally with other students. It is imperative that you work problems. This is the only way that you can learn price theory. I will assign a lot of problems; Anca Cotet has agreed to correct your answers.

Office Hours: Any time I am in my office, which is a good bit. If you want a guaranteed appointment, call in advance. I like to spend a couple of hours before class preparing my thoughts. It is ok to pop in briefly, but don't initiate something that will drag on.