

Humanities for semester II will consist of 2 intertwined parts: a brief introduction to Economics (with a focus on microeconomics), and the design, research, and delivery of your Senior Project.

Part I: Economics

Our first unit will be an exploration of concepts related to Economics. These concepts will include the following topics, and consume roughly 1 week each.

1. Why Economics? Introduction to scarcity, incentives, and the economic way of thinking
2. Economic models of Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John M. Keynes
3. Supply, demand, and the elasticity of supply and demand
4. Different types of economic systems, markets and business organization
5. Structured Academic Controversy: **Is Capitalism Good For The Poor?**
6. The role of government in the economy and market failure
7. Money and the banking system
8. Personal Finance
9. If time: the international economy (exchange rates, trade, globalization, balance of payments)

Assessment of Economics Unit:

Assessment methods from last semester still apply, which means you will be graded by a series of “quick checks” (20%), “formative assessments” (30%), and “summative assessments” (50%). See course syllabus for further elaboration.

There will not be an exhibition for the Economics unit. When I tried this in the past, students felt as if a heavy Econ exhibition detracted from their real focus: Senior Project. There will be, however, a series of mini-projects, SACs, and Seminars such as we are familiar with. There will be an Economics final examination instead.

Note: Economics content will generally be studied Monday-Thursday. Throughout the semester, Fridays will be reserved for senior project research, writing, researching, and advising (although there will be exceptions to this from time to time).

Part II: Senior Project

For Senior Project you will need to produce at least 2 things:

1. A 10-20 page formal academic research paper on a topic of your choosing. All sources must be cited (MLA) in a full bibliography.
2. Design your own exhibition. You will be required to exhibit your research findings in your exhibition, consisting of...
 1. A 12-20 minute TED-style informative/inspirational lecture
 2. A visual of some kind
 3. A thesis defense of your research and conclusions, including a 20-minute TPOL-style Q+A.

Assessment of Senior Project:

Senior Project will be assessed through your ability to produce quality products by the allotted deadline. There are many steps to complete a task of this scope, and you will develop a schedule (with your content adviser) to keep you on task and on time. Deadlines and benchmarks will include tasks such as developing a focused research question, procuring a topic adviser, developing an annotated bibliography, regular and directed meetings with your content adviser, various drafts, and your final draft. We will use a different grading scale and location for Senior Project that will reflect a more 'summative', college-based grading approach.