[Note to Undergraduates: For Undergraduates who enroll in the course as Econ 496 005 (CRN 80893), the requirements will be less.]

**Moral Theory and Adam Smith**

Fall 2014, (Econ 895 010; CRN 80894)

Professor Daniel Klein

Select Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:00, meeting place: Robinson Hall B204

This course is organized as a special topics course for students who have taken or are concurrently taking Smithian Political Economy. The students enrolled are expected to participate in the [Adam Smith Reading Group](http://econfaculty.gmu.edu/klein/Assets/GMU_Econ_Smith_Reading_plan.htm), which will meet on five Fridays, and to attend [the Invisible Hand Seminar](http://econfaculty.gmu.edu/klein/Assets/Invisible_Hand_Seminar.doc), which will meet on five Saturday afternoons.

In addition, students enrolled in this course will meet 7x for 90 minutes. So, all together among the three forums, your sitting-in-class time should just about equal that for a normal course.

Students enrolled are expected to be working on research projects that link at least loosely to Adam Smith. Besides reading and discussing two books indicated below, the course will direct group attention to each student’s research project, and the professor (Klein) will advise on the student’s project.

Graduate students will be required to make substantial progress on their projects, and to be more thorough and active in reading and discussion. For undergraduates, the expectations/requirements will simply be somewhat lighter.

The two works that will be read and discuss on seven Wednesdays:

1. Stephen Buckle, *Natural Law and the Theory of Property: Grotius to Hume* (Oxford UP, 1991).
2. John Reeder, ed., *On Moral Sentiments: Contemporary Reactions to Adam Smith* (Thoemmes Press, 1997).

7 Wednesdays 1:30­3:00 meetings plan -- (dates TBA)

1st meeting, Aug 27:

* Buckle, Preface and Ch. 1 “Hugo Grotius,” pp. vii-52.
* Reeder, Reeder, Introduction, pp. vii-xxi.

2nd meeting, Sept 10:

* Buckle, Ch. 2 “Samuel Pufendorf,” pp. 53-124.
* Reeder, pp. 3-17

3rd meeting, Sept 24:

* Buckle, Ch. 3 “John Locke,” pp. 125-190.
* Reeder, pp. 18-29

4th meeting, Oct 8:

* Buckle, Ch. 4 “Francis Hutcheson,” pp. 191-233.
* Reeder, pp. 30-57

5th meeting, Oct 22:

* Buckle, Ch. 5 “David Hume,” pp. 234-298.

6th meeting, Nov 5:

* Buckle, Appendix on moral psychology, pp. 299-310.
* Reeder, pp. 61-120

*Special event request*: Attend [Dan Klein’s Public Choice seminar](http://www.gmu.edu/centers/publicchoice/wed%20seminars/wedsem_fall14.htm) Wed Nov 19, 12:00-1:15.

7th meeting, Nov 19:

* Reeder, pp. 121-239.

**Getting Help:** Four good ways to get help from me: (1) email me; (2) ask questions during class, (3) talk to me right after class; (4) talk by phone – but I call you (email your ph number to me) – **talking by phone usually works really well.** Email me, and we will go from there. I promise to respond quickly.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the [Office of Disability Services](http://ods.gmu.edu/) at 703.993.2474 or [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu/). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.