

The course will explore the philosophy of Adam Smith as found chiefly in *An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. As in Professor Klein's class, the readings will be mostly from Smith himself.

Composition of Course Grade for Undergraduate Students:

1. **Class participation:** 15% of grade.
2. **Weekly Written Assignments on the Readings:** each assignment should be a minimum of 1, maximum of 2, pages; 50% of grade.
3. **Final Exam:** 35% of grade.

Composition of Course Grade for Graduate Students:

1. **Class participation:** 20% of grade
2. **Weekly Written Assignments on the Readings:** each assignment should be a minimum of 1, maximum of 2, pages; 20% of grade
3. **Final Exam:** 20% of grade
4. **Course Paper:** 40% of grade

Required Readings:

- Adam Smith, *An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. We work from the Glasgow editions, first printed by Oxford UP and now available [from Liberty Fund](#).

- Various essays as I encounter them and judge them appropriate for the class.

Reading Assignments:

Week 1: *WN*, pp. 5-64

Week 2: *WN*, pp. 65-135

Week 3: *WN*, pp.135-195 (We will skip pp. 195-275 – Smith's "Digression on Silver")

Week 4: *WN*, pp. 276-349

Week 5: *WN*, pp. 350-427

Week 6: *WN*, pp. 428-498

Week 7: *WN*, pp. 499-555

Week 8: *WN*, pp. 556-590

Week 9: *WN*, pp. 642-688

Week 10: *WN*, pp. 723-788

Week 11: *WN*, pp. 825-906

Week 12: *WN*, pp. 907-947.

Weekly Writing Assignments:

- Each assignment must summarize the material. Think of writing to your grandmother, (who has no idea who Adam Smith was) who asks you to tell her briefly what this Adam Smith person said in the section in question.

Guidelines for the Weekly Writing Assignments:

1. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font.
2. Put any references at the end of the paper. The references do not count as part of the length of the paper.

Guidelines for Graduate Students' Papers:

1. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font.
2. Put any references at the end of the paper. The references do not count as part of the length of the paper.
3. Paper must be on a "Smithian" topic of your choosing, but to be approved by me before you begin work on it.
4. Shoot for a length of about 25 pages (excluding references).

Final Exam: Will be handed out to you on the last day of class; you are to return it to me no later than one week hence.

Overview: This will be a true seminar-style class. I will not lecture to you so much as I will serve as a discussion leader and facilitator. We will learn from careful reading, and from discussions with each other. Our goal will be to understand better and more deeply Smith's system of economic analysis, as well as to explore the practical applications that Smith made of that analysis in 1776 – and what that analysis and Smith's use of it might tell us in 2015.