

Economics 110**Book Review Information**

As part of the work for this course, I require that you write a short book review. You can choose a book from the list below or ask me to approve another book of your choosing that is about an area of economics. No review will be accepted if the book is not pre-approved.

Your book review should include:

- an overall description of the book and its main themes/points
- a more in-depth description of one or more topics/parts of the book that you found interesting and/or important
- your overall evaluation of the book and recommendation (whether positive or negative)

Book reviews will be graded based on length and content according to the following schedule:

	poorly written	mediocrely written	pretty well written	very well written
<50 words	F	E-	E	E+
50-150 words	D-	D	D+	C-
150-249 words	C-	C	C+	B-
250-499 words	C+	B-	B	B+
500-800 words	B-	B	A-	A
>800 words	C+	B-	B+	A-

You may read other reviews of the book if you so choose. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Please send your book review to me at jjacobsen@wesleyan.edu (make sure you spell my name right). Attach it as a Word file (.doc or .docx), text file (.txt), or rich text file (.rtf), or just put it in the body of your email. The review can be sent at any time up until Wednesday April 27 at 6 pm. Late reviews will not be accepted.

Suggested Book List (Version Date: April 28, 2011)

Books are sorted by category and listed alphabetically by author's last name within category. Any edition of a listed book is ok to use. All of these books should be readily available, including used copies through Amazon and other on-line sources. I will update the list during the term if students suggest other books that I approve.

Applying Economics to Puzzles Around Us:

- Gary Becker and Guity Nashat Becker, *The Economics of Life: From Baseball to Affirmative Action to Immigration, How Real-World Issues Affect our Everyday Life*
- Robert Frank, *The Economic Naturalist: In Search of Explanations for Everyday Enigmas*
- David Friedman, *Law's Order: What Economics Has to Do with Law and Why It Matters*
- Tim Harford, *The Undercover Economist: Exposing Why the Rich Are Rich, the Poor Are Poor—and Why You Can Never Buy a Decent Used Car!*
- Paul Krugman, *The Accidental Theorist and Other Dispatches from the Dismal Science*
- Steven Landsburg, *The Armchair Economist: Economics and Everyday Experience*
- Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner, *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*; NOTE: the sequel to this book, *SuperFreakonomics*, is NOT allowed for the book review.
- Charles Whelan, *Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science*

Behavioral Economics and Game Theory:

- George Akerlof and Robert J. Shiller, *Animal Spirits: How Human Psychology Drives the Economy, and Why It Matters for Global Capitalism*
- Dan Ariely, *Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces that Shape Our Decisions*; or *The Upside of Irrationality: The Unexpected Benefits of Denying Logic at Work and at Home*
- Robert Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperation*
- Tyler Cowen, *Discover Your Inner Economist: Use Incentives to Fall in Love, Survive Your Next Meeting, and Motivate Your Dentist*
- Avinash Dixit and Barry Nalebuff, *Thinking Strategically: The Competitive Edge in Business, Politics, and Everyday Life*
- Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*
- Thomas Schelling, *Micromotives and Macrobehavior*
- Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness*
- James Surowiecki, *The Wisdom of Crowds: Why the Many are Smarter Than the Few and How Collective Wisdom Shapes Business, Economies, Societies and Nations*
- Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *The Black Swan*; or *Foiled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets*

Economic Development, Economic Growth, and Globalization:

- Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization*
- Ha-Joon Chang, *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism*
- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be Done About It*
- William Easterly, *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*; or *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*
- Barry Eichengreen, *Globalizing Capital*
- Raymond Fisman and Edward Miguel, *Economic Gangsters: Corruption, Violence, and the Poverty of Nations*
- Benjamin Friedman, *The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth*
- Paul Krugman, *The Return of Depression Economics*

- James Kynge, *China Shakes the World: A Titan's Rise and Troubled Future—and the Challenge for America*
- John Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*
- Dani Rodrik, *Has Globalization Gone Too Far?*
- Jeffrey Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*; or *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet*
- Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*
- Hernando de Soto, *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*
- Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents*; or *Making Globalization Work*; or *Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy*
- Muhammad Yunus, *Building Social Business*; or *Creating a World Without Poverty*; or *Banker to the Poor: Micro-lending and the Battle Against World Poverty*

Economic History and the Rise of the West:

- Robert C. Allen, *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*
- Gregory Clark, *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World*
- Jared Diamond, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*; or *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*
- Barry Eichengreen, *Golden Fetters: The Gold Standard and the Great Depression, 1919-1939*
- Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman, *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Slavery*
- Richard Grossman, *Unsettled Account: The Evolution of Banking in the Industrialized World since 1800*
- Harold James, *The End of Globalization: Lessons from the Great Depression*
- David Landes, *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor*
- Joel Mokyr, *The Gifts of Athena: Historical Origins of the Knowledge Economy*; or *The Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and Economic Progress*
- Mancur Olson, *The Rise and Decline of Nations: Economic Growth, Stagflation, and Social Rigidities*
- Nathan Rosenberg, *Exploring the Black Box: Technology, Economics, and History*
- Kevin O'Rourke and Jeffrey Williamson, *Globalization and History: The Evolution of a Nineteenth-Century Atlantic Economy*
- Gavin Wright, *Slavery and American Economic Development*; or *Old South, New South: Revolutions in the Southern Economy Since the Civil War*

Economics and Environmental Sustainability:

- Douglas Booth, *The Environmental Consequences of Growth: Steady-State Economics as an Alternative to Ecological Decline*
- Paul Collier, *The Plundered Planet: Why We Must—and How We Can—Manage Nature for Global Prosperity*
- Lester Brown et al., *Saving the Planet: How to Shape an Environmentally Sustainable Global Economy*
- Matthew Kahn, *Green Cities: Urban Growth and the Environment*

Financial Markets and Collapses:

- Peter Bernstein, *Capital Ideas: The Improbable Origins of Wall Street*; or *Against the Gods: The Remarkable Story of Risk*
- John Bogle, *The Battle for the Soul of Capitalism*
- Edward Chancellor, *Devil Take the Hindmost: A History of Financial Speculation*

- William Cohan, *House of Cards: A Tale of Hubris and Wretched Excess on Wall Street*
- Simon Johnson and James Kwak, *13 Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown*
- Charles Kindleberger, *Manias, Panics, and Crashes: A History of Financial Crises*
- Michael Lewis, *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine*; or *Liar's Poker*
- Burton Malkiel, *A Random Walk Down Wall Street*
- Laurence Meyer, *A Term at the Fed: An Insider's View*
- Raghuram Rajan and Luigi Zingales, *Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists: Unleashing the Power of Financial Markets to Create Wealth and Spread Opportunity*
- Nouriel Roubini, *Crisis Economics: A Crash Course in the Future of Finance*
- Robert Rubin, *In an Uncertain World: Tough Choices from Wall Street to Washington*
- Robert Shiller, *Irrational Exuberance*; or *The Subprime Solution: How Today's Global Financial Crisis Happened, and What to Do about It*
- Jeremy Siegel, *Stocks for the Long Run: The Definitive Guide to Financial Market Returns and Long-Term Investment Strategies*
- Andrew Sorkin, *Too Big to Fail: The Inside Story of How Wall Street and Washington Fought to Save the Financial System From Crisis—And Themselves*
- David Swensen, *Pioneering Portfolio Management: An Unconventional Approach to Institutional Investment*; or *Unconventional Success: A Fundamental Approach to Personal Investment*
- Eric Weiner, *The Shadow Market: How a Group of Wealthy Nations and Powerful Investors Secretly Dominate the World*
- Carl Walter and Fraser Howie, *Red Capitalism: The Fragile Financial Foundation of China's Extraordinary Rise*
- David Wessel, *In Fed We Trust: Ben Bernanke's War on the Great Panic*
- Gregory Zuckerman, *The Greatest Trade Ever*

History of Economic Thought:

- William Barber, *A History of Economic Thought*
- Todd Buchholz, *New Ideas from Dead Economists*
- Duncan Foley, *Adam's Fallacy: A Guide to Economic Theology*
- Robert Heilbroner, *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers*
- David Warsh, *Knowledge and the Wealth of Nations: A Story of Economic Discovery*

Industry Studies, Management, and Mismanagement

- Edward Castronova, *Synthetic Worlds: The Business and Culture of Online Games*
- Richard Caves, *Creative Industries: Contracts Between Art and Commerce*
- Jim Collins, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...and Others Don't*
- Brian Cruver, *Anatomy of Greed: Telling the Unshredded Truth from Inside Enron*
- Kurt Eichenwald, *Conspiracy of Fools: A True Story*
- Simon Kuper and Stefan Szymanski, *Soccernomics*
- Roger Lowenstein, *When Genius Failed: The Rise and Fall of Long-Term Capital Management*
- Bethany McLean and Peter Elkind, *The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron*
- John Roberts, *The Modern Firm: Organization Design for Performance and Growth*
- F. M. Scherer, *Quarter Notes and Bank Notes: The Economics of Music Composition in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*

- *Stefan Szymanski, *Playbooks and Checkbooks: An Introduction to the Economics of Modern Sports*
- Andrew Zimbalist, *Baseball and Billions: A Probing Look Inside the Big Business of our National Pastime*; or *May the Best Team Win: Baseball Economics and Public Policy*

Market Systems and Alternatives

- Kaushik Basu, *Prelude to Political Economy: A Study of the Social and Political Foundations of Economics*
- Alan Blinder, *Hard Heads, Soft Hearts: Tough-Minded Economics for a Just Society*
- Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*; or *Free to Choose*
- John Kenneth Galbraith, *The Essential Galbraith*
- F. A. Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*
- Charles Lindblom, *The Market System: What It Is, How It Works, and What to Make of It*
- John McMillan, *Reinventing the Bazaar: A Natural History of Markets*
- Russell Roberts, *The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance*; or *The Price of Everything: A Parable of Possibility and Prosperity*; or *The Choice: A Fable of Free Trade and Protection*
- E. F. Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful*

Positional Contests and Consumption:

- Richard Florida, *The Rise of the Creative Class*; or *Who's Your City? How the Creative Economy is Making Where to Live the Most Important Decision of Your Life*
- Robert Frank, *Choosing the Right Pond*; or *Luxury Fever: Why Money Fails to Satisfy in an Era of Excess*; or *The Winner-Take-All Society: Why the Few at the Top Get So Much More Than the Rest of Us* (with Philip Cook)
- Stanley Lebergott, *Pursuing Happiness*
- Juliet Schor, *The Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don't Need*; or *Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth*
- Elizabeth Warren and Amelia Warren Tyagi, *The Two-Income Trap: Why Middle-Class Parents are Going Broke*