

## ***Exploring Economics Through Popular Film ECO-328***

### **Description**

Economics goes to the movies. Titles such as *The Matrix*, *Other People's Money*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *Erin Brockovich* and *Proof of Life* will be our text as we explore various aspects of economic theory. Bring your favorite movie food and see these and other great movies in a new light.

### **Goals**

To expose students to economic theories not covered in principle courses through discussion of popular films. Students will explore some of the ideas of capitalism, Marxism, environmental economics, international economics, game theory and more. Through writing and research students will analyze the economic content of some popular films.

### **How it works**

Each class showcases a feature film. Students will be given a guide to the movie that contains a synopsis, discussion questions and resources for further investigation. Following the screening of the film, students will engage in a discussion of the economic concepts and perspectives presented in the film. Students will be required to write a review of each film at the end of each session.

Students will also produce two extended reviews of one to two pages in length. These papers will focus on one of the economic topics featured in class and the film the student chose to view before class began. Students will be asked to explore additional resources and review the concepts featured in those films.

Eleven films will be viewed in all, the instructor will choose ten, students will vote on the final film. Additional short films will be used as time permits.

### **Before class begins**

**Get a notebook (spiral or otherwise); you will use this as your movie journal. This notebook will be handed in at the end of the class.**

**Pick a movie you want to watch, one that you would be willing to discuss in class (no X-rated films). Watch it and enjoy! If you can't think of one, consider one from the list of additional films provided below. DO NOT CHOOSE ONE OF THE REQUIRED MOVIES.**

**View that film and write notes on what interested, confused or otherwise captured your attention in the film. Bring those to class with you.**

### **How you are graded**

Your grade will be based on class participation (10 points a film, judged on quality not quantity), your movie reviews (50 points) and your two extended papers (100 points).

Let's go to the movies! (3D glasses optional).

**Required Movies Viewed in Class –REQUIRED LIST**

1. A Beautiful Mind
2. Other People's Money
3. Erin Brockovich
4. 13 days
5. Mad Money
6. Gung Ho
7. 9 to 5
8. plus one to be determined by class

**Additional Movies - Students must select one movie to watch **before class starts**. Your choices are not limited to this list BUT do not choose a movie from the required list.**

1. Pay it Forward
2. A Civil Action
3. Milagro Beanfield War
4. Working Girl
5. Mississippi Magala
6. Do the Right Thing
7. Class Action
8. The Chamber
9. Pirates of the Caribbean I,II,III
10. We Are Marshall
11. Master and Commander
12. Finding Neverland
13. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
14. Speed
15. Jingle All the Way
16. Die Hard 1,2,3,4
17. Over the Hedge
18. The World is not Enough (for all you Bond fans)
19. Big Business
20. Second Hand Lions
21. Catch me if you can
22. Alice in Wonderland
23. Lord of the Rings
24. Night at the Museum
25. Oceans 11, 12, 13...
26. Star Wars1,2,3,4....

27. Star Trek (Voyage Home and Wrath of Khan are my favorites)