

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Economics 1017: A Libertarian Perspective on Economic, Social, and Foreign Policy

Jeffrey Miron
Office: Littauer 235
Office Hours: Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:45, or by appt
<https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/139067>

Fall 2024
Classroom: Emerson 105
Class Meeting: MW 1:30 – 2:45
[miron@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:iron@fas.harvard.edu)

This course analyzes the libertarian perspective on economic, social, and foreign policy. This perspective differs from both liberal and conservative views, arguing for minimal government across the board. Specific policies addressed include drug prohibition, gun control, free trade, public education, abortion rights, gay marriage, redistribution, immigration, health care, national defense, campaign finance regulation, pandemic policies, police misconduct, and free speech.

Course Requirements:

40%: Mid-Term Exam, Wednesday, October 9th, 2024
50%: Final Exam: Monday, December 4th, 2024
10%: Attendance at ten, one-hour discussion sections.

Recommended Course Prerequisites:

Ec 10a and 10b, or equivalents.

Course Readings:

See Canvas site. Exams will include questions on the readings for class and the readings for sections.

Exams:

Students requiring accessibility accommodation should submit the appropriate documentation via email to jkhan@hks.harvard.edu by October 1st. Always include “Econ 1017” in the subject of your email.

No makeup exams will be given. Students requiring alternative accommodation due to an emergency should email jkhan@hks.harvard.edu. Always include “Econ 1017” in the subject of your email.

All exams will be multiple choice. No regrade requests will be accepted.

Academic Integrity Policy:

See Canvas site.

Sections:

Each student must attend ten, one-hour discussion sections over the semester.

Attendance in all sections is required.

For topics and section schedules, see Canvas site.

If you miss a section due to illness, family emergency, or any other reason, you may make it up by writing a 1,000 word essay on the policy issue discussed in that section. This essay should explain the libertarian position on the issue and discuss critiques of the libertarian position. Essays should be uploaded to the appropriate Canvas assignment prior to the final exam. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Teaching Staff:

Junaid Kahn	jkhan@hks.harvard.edu (Head TF)
Nick Apostolicas	nicholas_apostolicas@college.harvard.edu
Siena Horton	sienahorton@college.harvard.edu
Thomas Huska	thuska@college.harvard.edu
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Sierra Lloyd	slloyd@college.harvard.edu
Andres Ramirez-Enriquez	aramirezenriquez@college.harvard.edu
Sarah Soboh	ssoboh@gse.harvard.edu
Claire Swadling	cswadling@college.harvard.edu

For questions regarding sections, please contact the Teaching Fellow for that section.

For questions about grading, please contact Junaid Kahn, jkhan@hks.harvard.edu.

For questions about any other administrative issue, please contact Junaid Kahn, jkhan@hks.harvard.edu.

Always include “Econ 1017” in the subject of your email.

TF Office Hours:

Please see Canvas Site.

Optional Writing Requirement

Ec concentrators who wish to satisfy the concentration’s writing requirement can do so by writing a 15-20 page paper that presents a consequential libertarian analysis of a policy not specifically addressed in class. If you are interested in pursuing this option, please email your suggested topic to me and Sarah Soboh, ssoboh@gse.harvard.edu. The paper grade will be 5% of total, with other components scaled. Due Date: December 4, 2024.

Course Outline

Wednesday	September 4	Introduction	1
Monday	September 9	Vice	2
Wednesday	September 11	Guns	3
Monday	September 16	Marriage	4
Wednesday	September 18	Abortion	5
Monday	September 23	Immigration and Trade	6
Wednesday	September 25	Environment	7
Monday	September 30	Pandemics	8
Wednesday	October 2	Crime	9
Monday	October 7	Education	10
Wednesday	October 9	MID-TERM EXAM, in-class	
Monday	October 14	<i>No Class: Indigenous Peoples' Day</i>	
Wednesday	October 16	Savings and Retirement	11
Monday	October 21	Capitalism	12
Wednesday	October 23	Health	13
Monday	October 28	Poverty and Redistribution	14
Wednesday	October 30	Campaign Finance Regulation	15
Monday	November 4	Elections and Democracy	16
Wednesday	November 6	Discrimination	17
Monday	November 11	Stability and Growth	18
Wednesday	November 13	National Defense	19
Monday	November 18	Taxation and Spending	20
Wednesday	November 20	The Constitution	21
Monday	November 25	Costs of Interventions	22
Wednesday	November 27	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Monday	December 2	Libertarian Land	23
Wednesday	December 4	FINAL EXAM, in-class	