

COURSE SYLLABUS

Economics for Sustainable Prosperity

Fall 2019 | 6:30 to 8:00 pm – Thursday nights | Begins on November 7, November 21, December 5, and December 12, December 19

Course presentation / paper encouraged

*Classroom – Henry George School of Social Science
149 E 38th Street*

New York, NY 10011

Instructor

Professor Marty Rowland, Ph.D., P.E.

Phone 504-453-2898 (call or text me; best way to contact)

Email drmarty@nyc.rr.com

Required texts:

Davies, Lindy. 2018. Understanding Economics; to fix what's wrong. Henry George Institute, New York. <https://www.amazon.com/Understanding-Economics-Fix-Whats-Wrong/dp/0974184489> ; cost, \$15.

Supplemental texts and articles:

George, Henry. 1879 (Original). Progress and Poverty: An inquiry into the cause of industrial depressions and the increase of want with increase of wealth...The Remedy. https://mises.org/sites/default/files/Progress%20and%20Poverty_3.pdf

George, Henry. 1883. Social Problems, Robert Schalkenback Foundation, New York (1996). <http://schalkenbach.org/library/henry-george/social-problems/spcont.html>

Gaffney, Mason and Fred Harrison. 1994. The Corruption of Economics; the uprooting of reality by the mind-control tool known as neoclassical economics, Shepheard-Walwyn Publishers Ltd, London. http://masongaffney.org/publications/K1Neo-classical_Stratagem.CV.pdf

Reinert, Erik S. 2007. How Rich Countries Got Rich ... and Why Poor Countries Stay Poor, Constable & Robinson, Ltd, London. <https://www.duo.uio.no/bitstream/handle/10852/32638/WP2004-01.pdf?sequence=1>

Tucker, Gilbert M. 1946. The Self-Supporting City, Robert Schalkenback Foundation (2010, 3rd edition), New York. http://www.cooperative-individualism.org/batt-h-william_albany-gilbert-tucker-and-the-selfsupporting-city-2010.htm <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/ncr.4110360516>

Gleeson, Tom, Mark Cuthbert, Grant Ferguson, and Debra Perrone. 2019. Global groundwater sustainability, resources, and systems in the Anthropocene, UK Natural Environmental Research Council, October 2. Download Gleeson review 15July19

Economics of Prosperity – Fall 2019

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Course Overview

Lindy Davies prepared a concise text that's perfect for use by those learning about Henry George for the first time. We will go through the entire book. However, the lectures will take on topical issues including climate change, automation, and the failures of mainstream economics in the way George would have presented them, using Davies and other supplemental materials to make the points. There is no reason why we should not be experiencing prosperity – the policies and tools are available – but, for the absconder of ground rent who sits in every room, floats through the air, and invades the subsurface while we pretend, she/he is not there. What we call mainstream economic is a flawed road map that does not offer prosperity but does explain why you are not prosperous. In this course, you learn the theory behind land value return and recycling (LVRR) – society recouping values in land that it created by promoting activities (manufacturing, innovation, highly developed public services / infrastructure) that allow increasing returns. Certainties are often characterized in association with death and taxes, but taxes should never be assumed as certain in representative republics; rather, a resilient method of government (i.e., wise governance) should promote activities that generate three types of rent: 1) Economic (i.e., monopoly of innovation); 2) Resource (e.g., ore, timber, oil, fish, and protected ecosystems); and 3) Land (i.e., locational values). The wisdom of elected leaders is expressed by how well the rents are captured (for re-investment into those value-promoting activities), leaving incomes, purchases, and productivity free of tax burdens.

Teaching Methodology

The course consists of a combination of lectures, discussion, assignments, and a course presentation or paper. As there is no assignment of grades, students may take away a simple analysis of the issues addressed or a more profound analysis that perplexes even those honored as favored intellectuals.

Learning Objectives

Students who complete this course should be able to:

- a) Explain the failings of mainstream economics on mischaracterizing land as capital;
- b) Propose policy to address climate change in line with philosophy of Henry George;
- c) Differentiate between a private economy and a public/cooperative economy;
- d) Identify a Georgist response to increasing automation; and
- e) Differentiate the circular flow of wealth per George vs. that of mainstream economics, and the role of infrastructure in that flow.

Student's Course Presentation / Paper

Each student is encouraged to present and / or write a five-page paper on any of the five learning objectives listed above, or a review of one of the supplemental texts.

Course schedule and Assignment list available at www.hgsss.org/courses