

[Note to Undergraduates: For Undergraduates who enroll in the course as Econ 496 003 (CRN 78272), the requirements will be less; specifically.]

### **Edmund Burke**

Fall 2019, (Econ 895 003; CRN 78180)

Professor Daniel Klein

Wednesdays 1:30 – 4:15, meeting place: Buchanan Hall D180

This course is organized as a special topics course for students who have taken or are concurrently taking Smithian Political Economy.

The purpose of the course will be for students to study the politic and economic thought of Edmund Burke and to develop papers for publication on the themes relating to Burke, Adam Smith and David Hume. This course will be a study group and workshopping course, partly to serve a project underway described here:

The central theme of the topic would be the exploration of the liberal characteristics and conservative characteristics of Burke's thought, and the relationship between those characteristics.

We shall read chiefly the following works:

- Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790). In Vol. 2 of *Selected Works of Edmund Burke*, Foreword by Francis Canavan, published by Liberty Fund, 1999.
- Edmund Burke, *An Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs* (1791). In *Further Reflections on the French Revolution*, ed. Daniel E. Ritchie, published by Liberty Fund, 1992.
- Edmund Burke, *Letters on a Regicide Peace* (1795). In Vol. 3 of *Selected Works of Edmund Burke*, published by Liberty Fund, 1999.
- Edmund Burke, *Thoughts and Details on Scarcity* (1795). In *Selected Works of Edmund Burke: Miscellaneous Writings*, published by Liberty Fund, 1999 (and online with a [Foreword](#) by D.B. Klein at Econ Journal Watch, March 2019).
- Yuval Levin, *The Great Debate: Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine, and the Birth of Right and Left*. New York: Basic, 2014.

Students enrolled are expected to be working on research projects that link at least loosely to Smith, Hume, and Burke. Besides reading and discussing two books indicated below, the course will direct group attention to each student's research project, and the professor (Klein) will advise on the student's project.

Term papers: Graduate students will be required to make substantial progress on their projects

(papers of at least 20 pages), and to be more thorough and active in reading and discussion. For undergraduates, the expectations/requirements will simply be somewhat lighter (papers of at least 12 pages).

Reflection assignments: Also, for the readings assigned for each class meeting, students are to write reflections: Three from graduate students, and two from undergraduates. These reflections are to be printed and turned in at class. I will circulate instructions on how to structure the reflections.

**Getting Help:** Four good ways to get help from me: (1) email me; (2) ask questions during class, (3) talk to me right after class; (4) talk by phone – but I call you (email your ph number to me) – **talking by phone usually works really well.** Email me, and we will go from there. I promise to respond quickly.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) at 703.993.2474 or [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.