

Econ 101: Enlightenment, Fall 2022
Northwestern University, 2022 Fall, Mon/Wed 9:30 - 10:50 am; Schapiro 101A
Prof. Scott Ogawa (sogawa@northwestern.edu)

Description

We will read Steven Pinker's *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*. We will discuss reason, science, humanism, and progress. (We will also read individual chapters from other selected works.)

You will submit several writing assignments and hopefully become a stronger writer as you go. Finally, as time permits, we will use class time to discuss strategies for finding success at college.

Expectations

Class attendance is required and active participation is expected. Throughout the quarter you will be given reading assignments. Please complete these before class, and come willing and able to contribute to a discussion. If you cannot meet any of these expectations then please send me an email in advance.

Wednesday Readings, Quizzes, and Presentations

On a typical Wednesday we will discuss two chapters from part II of *Enlightenment Now*. By midnight prior to class: Every student is expected to do the reading and complete a short online assignment. During class there will be a short reading quiz. Finally, each student will do a short presentation about one particular chapter.

Office Hours

There are no official office hours for this class but my door is always open: Just send me an email to set up a time to meet. Also, we will have scheduled meetings to discuss each of your papers.

Assignments

If one of these due dates looks problematic, let me know. If you email at least three full days in advance, you can push the due date back (subject to approval); you can do this exactly once during the quarter.

- Assignment 1 due Monday, Oct 3 (Start of third week of school)
- Assignment 2 due Monday, Oct 31 (Monday after drop deadline)
- Assignment 3 due Monday, Nov 21 (Week of Thanksgiving)
- Final Paper due 5:00 pm Thursday, Dec 8 (Scheduled final exam)

Reading

In addition to *Enlightenment Now*, we may read individual chapters from the following books:

- *The Strategy of Conflict*, Thomas Schelling
- *The Sense of Style*, Steven Pinker
- *The Righteous Mind*, Jonathan Haidt
- *Thinking Fast and Slow*, Daniel Kahneman
- *Collapse*, Jared Diamond

Evaluation

- Class participation and in-class presentation(s) (15%)
- Quizzes and pre-class assignments (15%)
- In-class writing assignment(s) (5%)
- Three short writing assignments (30%)
- Final paper (35%)

University Policies

Unless I state explicitly otherwise, all expectations contained in the following link apply:

<https://www.registrar.northwestern.edu/faculty-staff/syllabi.html>