

Economics Goes to the Movies

Description

Economics goes to the movies. Titles such as *The Matrix*, *Reds*, *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.

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 films 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.

Nine films will be viewed in all, the instructor will choose eight, students will vote on the other one. 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

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

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

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