I. **Catalog Description**

EC 412  Comparative Economic Systems (4)

Examination of alternative economic organizations, ranging from free enterprise to fully planned economies. 4 lecture/presentations. Prerequisites: EC 201 and EC 202.

II. **Required Background or Experience**

EC 201 and EC 202.

III. **Expected Outcomes**

Students in EC 412 will:

a) compare and contrast the fundamental principles that distinguish the two basic economic systems -- capitalism and socialism,

b) identify and summarize the multiple forces that can affect the historical or concrete forms of development of real-world systems, including the economic, political and moral dimensions,

c) examine the interrelationships between underlying premises and real-world manifestations of these premises across economic systems,

d) summarize the complexity of forces that affect systems,

e) critically discuss the relevant criteria by which real world systems may be compared and evaluated, and

f) comparative analysis and historical role of institution in the evolution of the capitalist and economies in transition.

IV. **Text and Readings**

Texts:


Readings:


V. **Minimum Student Materials**

Textbooks and notebooks.

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VI. **Minimum College Facilities**

Classroom suitable for lecture/presentations. Library of assigned reading materials and basic works.

VII. **Course Outline**

A. Introduction

   1. Economic Problem of Scarcity
   2. Fundamental Tasks of Economic Systems

B. Which System is Best?

   1. Economic Analysis of Economic Policy

C. Theories of Capitalism

   1. Free Market or Laissez-Faire Ideals
      a. Private Property,
      b. Consumer's sovereignty
      c. Competition
      d. Monopoly
      e. Business Cycles
      f. Unemployment
      g. Inflation
      h. Poverty

   2. Managed Capitalism -- Capitalism and Planning in the 20th Century

D. Marx's Vision of Socialism and Communism

   1. Capitalism and Alienation
   2. The Path from Capitalism to Socialism
   3. The Nature and Purpose of Socialism
   4. Pure Communism

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**EC 412**
5. The Theory of Democratic Socialism, or Market Socialism

E. The Mises Critique of Socialist Economy
   1. The Problems of Value and Prices
   2. Economic Calculations in Socialist and the Market Systems
   3. The Meaning of Planning
   4. Socialist Approximation to the Market

F. The USSR Experience in Socialism
   1. The Soviet Economy and Its Basic Institutions
   2. Problems in Planning and Emergence of Markets
   3. Economic Growth and the Rise of the Soviet Consumer
   4. The Liberman and other Reform Proposals

G. Socialist Systems in Other Countries: Yugoslavia, China, Eastern Europe

VIII. Instructional Methods

Lecture/presentation sessions covering text assignments and course readings.

IX. Evaluation of Outcomes

Students complete a written research paper on one of the categories listed in the course outline. Written in-class examinations and classroom participation.