Economics 312: The Economics of Technology

Dr. Al Link
Fall 2005
T Th 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Purpose of the Course
- To introduce students to the economic concepts that underlie innovation and technological change, including related public policies

Format of the Course
- This is a lecture/research class. The lectures will build upon assigned readings.
- Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss material when called upon.
- The research portion of the class will be reflected in a research paper and a class presentation.

Topic Outline of the Course
- Historical perspectives on technology in society
- Public sector support of innovation
- Technological change and R&D
- The US patent system
- Tax incentives and innovation
- Research collaborations
- Institutional public/private partnerships
- Program evaluation

Testing, Grading, and Exceptions
- In-class exams – mid term and final – 30% each
- Research paper – 20%
- Class presentation – 10%
- Class discussion – 10%
and,
- Make up exams are not given under any circumstances
- A late research paper will not accepted
- No extra credit assignments are given

Expectations
- Students are expected to be in class on time and prepared to discuss the assigned material. Note that 10% of your grade is based on informed class discussion.
Text and Readings (the text and readings are on Blackboard)

- *Public/Private Partnerships: Innovation Strategies and Policy Alternatives* by A.N. Link
- “Prenatal Genetic Testing and Euthanasia” by S. Post
- “Robotics and Artificial Intelligence” by H. Moravec
- “Biomedical Technologies” by E.G. Cravalho
- “The Fixed Determination of an Indomitable Will: Florence Nightingale” by D. Bornstein
- “The People Own Ideas” by L. Lessig

Office Hours

- Bryan 461 by appointment
- Office phone: 334-5146
- email: al_link@uncg.edu (preferred means of communication) – use Eco 312 in the subject line to help ensure that your email is not treated as SPAM