

**Honors Colloquium - 1 - SCHEDULE #52803**  
**Friday 10 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.**  
**Classroom Complex I, Room 207**  
**Spring Semester 2011**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

**Lauren MacDonald, MA**

**Email – [lauren.macdonald@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:lauren.macdonald@reedleycollege.edu)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** *Freakonomics* is full of fascinating questions and provocative answers. It frequently touches on questions of violence. Written by a renowned but unorthodox economist and a journalist, it takes pains to explain econometric findings to a general public. Some of you will find the concepts familiar while others might discover this to be new territory. In any event, as you work through this course, keep in mind the dynamic economic policies and changes that continue in the world around us and how they impact our lives. This course will involve studying and discussing concepts that are some of the most important and basic topics relevant today.

Textbook: Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. New York: William Morrow, 2005.

Newspaper and journal articles may be assigned and copies will be available through Blackboard.

Week 1: Introduction

An Explanatory Note - *Freakonomics* pp. ix - xii

Week 2: The Hidden Side of Everything - *Freakonomics* pp. 1-15.

Week 3: "Not-so-Free Ride," *New York Times*, April 20, 2008, Stephen Dubner and Steven D. Levitt

Week 4: "The Jane Fonda Effect," *New York Times*, September 16, 2007, Stephen Dubner and Steven D. Levitt

Week 5: What Do Schoolteachers and Sumo Wrestlers Have in Common? - *Freakonomics* pp.19-51.

Week 6: No Class

Week 7: "What the Bagel Man Saw," *New York Times*, June 6, 2004, Stephen Dubner and Steven D. Levitt.

Week 8: The Ku Klux Klan and Real-Estate Agents - *Freakonomics* pp. 53-85

Week 9: "Hoodwinked?" *New York Times*, January 8, 2006, Stephen Dubner and Steven D. Levitt.

Week 10: Why Do Drug Dealers Still Live with Their Moms? *Freakonomics*, pp. 87-114.

Week 11: "Developing a Crack Index." *New York Times*, August 7, 2005, Stephen Dubner and Steven D. Levitt.

Week 12: Where Have All the Criminals Gone? *Freakonomics*, pp. 115-44. 3

Week 13: "Filling in the Tax Gap," *New York Times* April 2, 2006, Stephen Dubner and Steven D. Levitt.

Week 14: What Makes a Perfect Parent? *Freakonomics*, pp143-175

Week 15: Perfect Parenting, Part II; or Would Roshanda by Any Other Name Smell as Sweet? *Freakonomics*, pp. 177-04

Week 16: Epilogue: Two Paths to Harvard, *Freakonomics*, pp. 205-07.

Week 17: Smallpox as art: Art and the Global Reality

Week 18: Finals Week

**Events:**

Field Trip: To be determined.

Town Hall Lecture: March 16 2011 - Time for a clean energy & low-carbon economy, Daniel Kammen

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

January 10	Instruction Begins
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday
January 21	Last day to drop a class for a fee refund/reversal
February 18	Lincoln Day holiday
February 21	Washington Day holiday
March 11	Last day to withdraw
April 18 – April 22	Spring Break
May 20	End of Spring Semester

*The instructor reserves the right to alter the course syllabus and class schedule at any time during the course of the semester.*