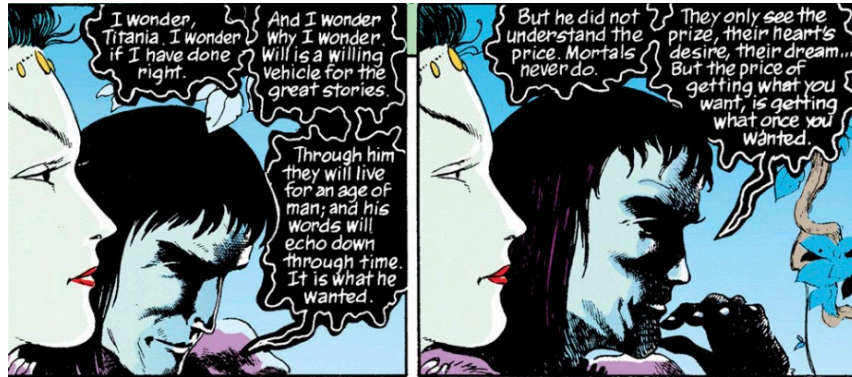


CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Professor Katharine Gillespie Moses
Smith Institute for Political Economy
and Philosophy
Orange, CA 92866
kgillespie@chapman.edu
(714) 516-4563

Professor Bart J. Wilson
Smith Institute for Political Economy
and Philosophy
Orange, CA 92866
bjwilson@chapman.edu
(714) 628-7306



COURSE SYLLABUS

First-year Foundation Course 100
Choice in Economics and *The Sandman*

Fall 2024

Monday / Wednesday:
Office Hours: By appointment with both professors.

Course Description

To be human is to choose. To be human is to face the consequences of our choices. To be human is to change as we choose and face the consequences of our choices. The course dialogically explores Neil Gaiman's graphic novels, *The Sandman*, and the British economist Lionel Robbins's *An Essay on the Nature and Significance of Economic Science* to ask what it means for economic science and the human condition that we are beings who choose and change.

In 1932, Lionel Robbins expressed a viewpoint that is now near universally accepted by economists, claiming that the significance of economics "is fundamentally distinct from ethics." The Sandman says to Shakespeare that "I am not a man. And I do not change ... I am the Prince of stories, Will; but I have no story of my own. Nor shall I ever." What if both statements are simply untrue and related to each other. What if economics and ethics are indeed two sides of the same coin? What if Morpheus does indeed choose and change? In this course we read *The Sandman* to inform our understanding of what economic science is, and we use our understanding of economic science to inform our reading of *The Sandman*.

Catalogue Course Description

This course engages students in interdisciplinary, university-level critical inquiry and reflection. The FFC course focuses more on critical engagement, exploration, and communication related to complex issues than on mastering a body of material. The section topics vary, and students select a topic according to their academic and personal interests. Must be taken for a letter grade. (Offered every semester.) 3 credits.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to critically analyze and communicate complex issues and ideas in a variety of genres, historical periods, and global contexts. They will work independently and collaboratively to explore issues and questions that have engaged historians, philosophers, artists, scientists, economists, and political theorists for centuries.

Prerequisites

Disposition to inquire and be challenged.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate how Morpheus's statement that "the price of getting what you want, is getting what once you wanted" is a theme for the entire *The Sandman* series.
2. Explain and critique Robbins's definition of economics as "the science which studies human behaviour as a relationship between ends and scarce means which have alternative uses."
3. Create a short story that pays homage to *The Sandman* using an idea in Lionel Robbins's essay.
4. Integrate Gaiman's and Robbins's notions of choice into an idea applicable to economics.
5. Ask cogent, thought-provoking questions based upon critical reading of texts across graphic novels and non-fiction.
6. Apply experience in economic experiments to ideas in literary and economic texts.

Required Texts to Purchase

*Students are expected to bring hard copies of assigned books, along with a notebook and pen, to each discussion; electronic copies of texts are **not** acceptable.*

Gaiman, Neil. *The Sandman, Book One*. DC Comics (April 12, 2022). **ISBN-13: 978-1779515179**

Gaiman, Neil. *The Sandman, Book Two*. DC Comics (April 19, 2022). **ISBN-13: 978-1779516435**

Gaiman, Neil. *The Sandman, Book Three*. DC Comics (May 3, 2022). **ISBN-13: 978-1779516442**

Gaiman, Neil. *The Sandman, Book Four*. DC Comics (May 17, 2022). **ISBN-13: 978-1779517104**

Robbins, Lionel. *An Essay on the Nature and Significance of Economic Science*. Ludwig von Mises Institute, 2007 [1932]. **ISBN-13: 978-1610160391**

Essential Facility

Seminar setting

Instructional Methods:

This course uses a combination of hands-on learning in Socratic roundtable discussions of texts, question development, experiments, and demonstration of meaning making through expository and creative papers.

Evaluation1. *Participation in Class Discussions* [15%]

Class discussion provides an opportunity for students to explore questions about choice and consequence in the human condition. Through this shared inquiry, students gain experience reading for meaning and communicating complex ideas; thinking reflectively about an interpretive problem; and supporting and testing thoughts through dialogue with peers. Class discussion fosters the flexibility of mind to consider problems from multiple perspectives and the ability to analyze ideas critically. Students must enter the discussion with specific questions generated by all of our texts as well as a desire to probe and reevaluate ideas. It is essential that students bring texts and questions to each class session.

2. *Laboratory Experiments* [5%]

Part of the experiential learning in this class involves participating in laboratory exercises involving concepts that we will discuss in a future class. All you need to do is show up on time and make the decisions you deem to be the best for the situation presented to you.

3. *Written Questions* [15%]

Shared inquiry is a process for exploring the central ideas of the course. This means students must read for meaning, identifying possible interpretative problems they would like to address in discussion. For each class period with an assignment, students will word process in advance two questions to be handed in before class starts. Asking a good question is harder than providing a good answer. The student's task is to delve into a claim that is surprising, unexpected, just plain unsettling. Why is the claim surprising, unexpected, or unsettling? Such questions will prepare the student for their weekly writing.

4. *Expository and Creative Writing* [50%]

For the seven weeks during the semester, students will write 250 polished words that either analyze choice and consequence in the weekly readings of *The Sandman* and Lionel Robbins's essay or articulate an insight or critique from reading our texts concurrently. [7 essays @ 2%/essay]

For the third quarter of the semester, students will compose a 750-word short story that pays homage to *The Sandman* on the student's choice of a theme from Robbins's essay. [1 story @ 18%]

For the final quarter of the semester, students will compose an expository essay using ideas from both Gaiman and Robbins to say something original about choice and ethics in economics. [1 essay @ 18%]

5. *Oral Final Examination* [15%]

The oral final examination will involve dice. Other details will be discussed in the final week of the course.

Because of the interactive nature of the class, attendance is an essential component. Excessive tardies constitute absences. Undergraduate Catalog, Academic Policies and Procedures: “The University recommends as a minimal policy that students who are absent 20 percent of the course should be failed.” Please keep this in mind. Missed in-class work cannot be made up.

Students with Disabilities

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 or (<https://www.chapman.edu/students/health-and-safety/disability-services/>) if you have questions regarding this procedure, or for information and to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy

Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor and referral to the University's Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions including expulsion.

Equity and Diversity Policy

Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in Chapman’s Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Please see the full description of this policy at <https://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/files/harassment-discrimination-and-sexual-harassment-policy.pdf>. Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the dean of students and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.

Last revised by: Katharine Gillespie Moses & Bart J. Wilson, Fall 2023

Tentative Course Schedule and Outline

	<i>The Sandman</i>					
	<i>Book One</i>	<i>Book Two</i>	<i>Book Three</i>	<i>Book Four</i>	<i>Lionel Robbins</i>	<i>Other</i>
M, 8/26						Exhortation
W, 8/28	#1 – #4					Weekly essay due
M, 9/2					Holiday	
W, 9/4	#5 – #8 #9 – #12					
M, 9/9					Chapter I	
W, 9/11	#13 – #16					Weekly essay due
M, 9/16	#17 – #20					
W, 9/18					Chapter II	Weekly essay due
M, 9/23		#21 – #24				
W, 9/25		#25 – #28				
M, 9/30					Chapter III	
W, 10/2		#32 – #37				Weekly essay due
M, 10/7		#29 – #31	#38 – #40			
W, 10/9					Chapter IV	Weekly essay due
M, 10/14		#50, <i>The Song of Orpheus</i>				
W, 10/16					Chapter V	Weekly essay due
M, 10/21						Short story workshop
W, 10/23			#41 – #44			
M, 10/28			#45 – #49			Short story due
W, 10/30					Chapter VI	
M, 11/4			#51 – #56			
W, 11/6						Library visit Weekly essay due
M, 11/11				#57 – #63		
W, 11/13				#64 – #69		
M, 11/18						Expository essay workshop
W, 11/20				#70 – #75		
M, 12/2						Expository essay due
W, 12/4						Synthesize ideas for final exam
X, 12/?? xx:x0					Oral Final Exam	