

Economics 1017: A Libertarian Perspective on Economic, Social, and Foreign Policy

Fall 2023

<i>Instructor:</i> Jeffrey Miron	<i>Classroom:</i> Alden + Harlow
<i>Office:</i> That's private	<i>Lecture Time:</i> Friday (11:30am-2:15pm)
<i>Office Hours:</i> Friday (2:15pm-3:15pm)	<i>Attire:</i> Quiet luxury

First Course

I'll begin my meal with steak tartare and a martini. Also, I'll introduce you to 'Miron-isms,' nuggets of wisdom which you'll nibble on, marvel at, and digest for the rest of your life.

Miron-ism #1: 'Being born into something counts as working hard for it.'

Second Course

I'll do another steak tartare and another martini. This is when I'll tell the waiter to 'keep em coming.' If I'm feeling talkative, I'll share personal anecdotes designed to challenge the need for government shams like Medicare, Social Security, food stamps, and emergency disaster relief.

Miron-ism #2: 'If you need something, just buy it.'

Main Course

My steak will arrive, and so will my side of hamburger. The crescendo of the meal will correspond with the crescendo of my lesson. I'll assault you with hard truths about real issues, the kinds of hard truths which I may or may not be allowed to tell you. No holding back. Also, no phones or recording devices of any sort are allowed in the classroom. I'll speak truth on topics ranging from lowering taxes to legalizing fentanyl, and will at no point provide trigger warnings of any kind. **Miron-ism #3:** 'If I'm driving, and I don't hit anyone, why does it matter what substances I was on?'

Dessert

I'll have the Peaches & Cream, light on the peaches. At this point I will rant. The rant will cover most of the material discussed in the main course but in an unpredictable order and with frequent repetition. Repetition is a crucial tenet of my pedagogical approach. Throughout this portion of the meal, it's paramount that no one interrupts or disagrees with me. I will have a lot to say. **Miron-ism #4:** 'I'm not giving away my hard-earned money just so some soyboy volunteer can feed caviar to homeless people.'

Getting the Check

Surprise: we're splitting the bill. Doesn't feel fair, does it? Mhm. Well, that's how I feel about progressive tax rates. And until that changes, we're splitting the goddamn bill. For extra-credit, you can pay for one of my martinis. For extra-extra credit, you can pay for all of my martinis.

Miron-ism #5: 'A squeaky wheel gets the grease. If you want to know about extra-extra-extra credit, find me after class.' I'll put down my card, for the points, and you can venmo what you owe to the venmo account @mynamejeff1776usa. I will add 10% compounding interest for every hour you don't venmo. **Miron-ism #6:** 'Compounding interest is the secret to building lasting wealth.'

Post-meal Cigars (Office Hours)

Before we depart, I'll field questions such as 'How much did you tip?' or 'So you actually don't believe in racism?' The answer is 'I didn't.' **Miron-ism #7:** 'When frequently rewarded, human beings tend to grow complacent. Can't argue with science.' If I feel like it won't ruin my career, I'll whisper my answer to the second question. **Miron-ism #8:** "It turned out my fear of living in a post-racial society was largely unfounded."

Ice Cream Time

Yum!

Comp Lagoon



Introductory meetings for the Harvard Lagoon Fall 2023 comp will be held Monday 9/11, Tuesday 9/12,

Wednesday 9/13, and Friday 9/15 at 8PM at the Lagoon Castle at 44 Bow Street.

Refreshments will be served. Comp Literature, Art, Business, or Tech.

Questions? Visit <https://www.harvardlagoon.com/comp>