

BB&T Learning Laboratory on Capitalism Book Club, Spring 2010

The BB&T Learning Laboratory on Capitalism reconvenes its reading group during Spring 2010. New and returning participants are welcome. We will read and discuss:

Economics in One Lesson by Henry Hazlitt

The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance by Russell Roberts
(detailed descriptions of the books are below)

The book club will meet every other Wed. evening, 6:30 to 7:30 in BE 324. The first meeting is Feb. 10 and subsequent meetings are Feb. 24, Mar. 10, Mar. 24, Apr. 7, and Apr. 21. Please contact Dr. John Garen to indicate your interest (jgaren@uky.edu). Those participating may pick up books from Dr. Garen in BE335AZ.

Students who want to do this on a for-credit basis may sign up for ECO 395 (independent study), 1 credit, pass/fail. To do so, students will have to see Dr. Garen. If you sign up on a for-credit basis, passing requires regular attendance and active participation.

For our first meeting on Wednesday, February 10, we will discuss Chs. 1-5 of Hazlitt and Chs. 1-3 of Roberts.

Economics in One Lesson by Henry Hazlitt

Written for the non-academic, it has served as the major antidote to fallacies in the popular press, and has appeared in dozens of languages and printings. It's still the quickest way to learn how to think like an economist. And this is why it has been used in the best classrooms more than sixty years.

The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance by Russell Roberts

A love story that embraces the business and economic issues of the day? *The Invisible Heart* takes a provocative look at business, economics, and regulation through the eyes of Sam Gordon and Laura Silver, teachers at the exclusive Edwards School in Washington, D.C. Sam lives and breathes capitalism. He thinks that most government regulation is unnecessary or even harmful. He believes that success in business is a virtue. He believes that our humanity flourishes under economic freedom. Laura prefers Wordsworth to the *Wall Street Journal*. Where Sam sees victors, she sees victims. She wants the government to protect consumers and workers from the excesses of Sam's beloved marketplace. While Sam and Laura argue about how to make the world a better place, a parallel story unfolds across town. Erica Baldwin, the crusading head of a government watchdog agency, tries to bring Charles Krauss, a ruthless CEO, to justice. How are these two dramas connected? Why is Sam under threat of dismissal? Will Erica Baldwin find the evidence she needs? Can Laura love a man with an Adam Smith poster on his wall? The answers in *The Invisible Heart* give the reader a richer appreciation for how business and the marketplace transform our lives.