Current Economic Issues

OSHER 430-001

Dates: Tuesdays, 4/2/2013 – 5/7/2013
Times: 11:30 – 1:00 PM
Location: Commander’s House, Fort Douglas
Instructor: William Carlisle

Course Overview

The election is behind us, although gridlock and repetitive fiscal crises continue to influence current economic policy. This class will explore where we are in the economic cycle following the deepest and longest recession since the 1930’s. We will examine current growth rates, employment trends, interest rates, and international trends along with other aspects of the current economy to gain insight into how we’re doing and where we might be going.

COURSE OUTLINE

Tuesday, April 2nd: The Great Recession

Origins of the Recession
The Growth Path Out: Out of the Woods (?)
Fiscal Policies aimed at the Recession
The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy

Tuesday, April 9th: The Recovery

The General Recovery
Recovery in the Housing Market
Consumer confidence and spending
The Stock Market
The Labor Market

Tuesday, April 16th: Incomplete Recovery and Problem Areas

The Labor Market
Business Spending (Capital Investment)
Slow Growth
General Uncertainty

Tuesday, April 23rd: The Political Environment

Political Gridlock and Current Economic Policy
Time for Austerity?
Budget Issues: Spending and Taxation
The Federal Government Budget Deficit and Debt
The Debt Ceiling
Tuesday, April 30th: Important Sectors

The Banking Sector: Return to Stability?
Automobile Sales, Retail Sales in General, and consumers
The Housing Sector
The International Sector: Europe and China

Tuesday, May 7th: Concluding Thoughts

Economic Policy Going Forward
Continuing Recovery, and Prospects for going back into recession
The political environment going forward