

Theology, Spring 1980

B. Lonergan

TH 860: Macroeconomics and the Dialectic of History

Part I: Macroeconomics as Natural Science

Note: A Natural science determines functional relations among measurable quantities and controls results by manipulating the relations, the quantities, or both.

Required reading: Insight, pp. 3-102.

Text: R. Gordon, Macroeconomics, chapters 1-8.

January 17: Macroeconomics and Measurement (pp. 1-47)

January 24: Commodity-market equilibrium, the Multiplier, Spending and the Rate of Interest, (pp. 49-92)

January 31: The IS and LM curves; the varying effects of Fiscal and Monetary Policy, pp. 93-142

February 7: Flexible Prices and the Self-correcting Economy; Allowing Prices and Output to change together, pp. 143-200.

February 14: Determinants of Inflation and Unemployment (pp. 201-243). Compare: the Instability of Investment and Consumption (pp. 300-410).

Part II: Macroeconomics, a Human Problem

Note: To the emergent probability of natural process (Insight, pp. 115-159) man adds its transformation by common sense intelligence (pp. 173-191) and the distortion of bias (pp. 207-244).

Text: B. Lonergan, An Essay on Circulation Analysis

February 28: The Productive Process: Definition, Division, Stages, Cycles (pp. 0-27)

March 6: Classes and Rates of Payment and Transfer, Diagram of the Circulation, Circuit Acceleration, Measuring (pp. 28-59).

March 13: Phases and Cycle in the Economic "Golden Age"

March 20: The Ambiguity of Profit and the Consequent Misinterpretation of the Signs of the Times

March 27 and April 10, 17, 24: Further consequents of this misinterpretation.