Employment Past, Present, and Future
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Description:
The goal of this interdisciplinary lecture and discussion course is to introduce students to the various ways in which human beings have “made a living” in the past, how they do so now, and how they are likely to do so in the future so that students can make more informed decisions about their choice of career or vocation.

Course objectives:
1) describe and
2) evaluate the past, present, and future of five different ways that humans “make a living”;
3) assess how employment trends may influence their own lives and search for vocation.

Weeks/topics:
1. Hunting and gathering
2. Horticulture/agriculture
3. Investment (real and financial: bonds, stocks, mortgages)
4. Proprietorship/entrepreneurship (ownership and management of business)
5. Hiring of others/employment I: enslavement, coercive (debt peonage, apprenticeships, internships)
6. MIDTERM
7. Hiring of others/employment II: “free” wage
   *long-term contract, employment or consultative
   *short-term contract, employment or consultative
   *at-will
   *independent contractor/consultant
10. The “gig” economy
11. Future scenarios:
    *no work necessary
    *no employment = all proprietorship/gig
    *more slavery or bonded labor
12. REFLECTIVE ESSAY PRESENTATIONS
REFLECTIVE ESSAY DRAFTS DUE
FINAL EXAMINATION
REFLECTIVE ESSAY FINAL DUE

Books:
Hunting, gathering, early agriculture ➔ excerpts from Mithen’s After the Ice
History of investing ➔ Reamer and Downing Investment: A History
Entrepreneurship/proprietorship ➔ excerpts from Wright’s Little Business on the Prairie
Slavery overview ➔ excerpts from Wright’s Poverty of Slavery and Fubarnomics
Hiring of others ➔ Kaufman, Hired Hands or Human Resources?
Present ➔ Oberholtzer, *The Hustle Economy*

Assessments:
Attendance 10
Midterm 20
Reflective Essay Presentation 20
Reflective Essay Draft 10
Reflective Essay Final 20
Final 20

Assessment to course objectives map:
Midterm Exam ➔ course objective #1 = *describe* 5 ways of making a living, past, present, and future

Final Exam ➔ course objective #2 = *evaluate* 5 ways of making a living, past, present, and future

Reflective Essay ➔ course objective #3 = An essay of circa 3,000 words discussing how the course has influenced the student’s thinking about his or her career/vocation. First given as a presentation, then a paper draft, and then a final, polished essay.