

## **Beacon Summer Reading 2009: 12th Grade: International Political Economy (IPE)**

Please read The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times And Ideas Of The Great Economic Thinkers [7th Edition], Simon & Schuster, ISBN 0-684-86214, by Robert L. Heilbroner. The book is readily available at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com, and at the NYPL.

The summer reading will prepare you for themes in 12th grade International Political Economy next year. There will be a writing assignment on the reading at the beginning of the school year.

Please do the following:

- A) For the INTRODUCTION, explain what the point of this book is, according to Heilbroner. In other words, explain the thesis and "argument" he is making in the Introduction, in your own words.
  
- B) For each economist (Smith, Keynes, Schumpeter, Marx, etc.), explain:
  - 1) What are his main ideas? How are his ideas different/similar from those of his predecessors? To what extent does this economist build off the ideas of those who come before him? Provide examples from the text. Be sure to cite them with page numbers (in-text citations).
  - 2) To what extent was this economist successful in explaining our world today? Are the ideas of these economists dated? Can they help us understand the current financial crisis? Explain.
  - 3) Rank the economists in terms of their importance - with a brief explanation for why you put them in that order.
  
- C) What is the main point of "The End of the Worldly Philosophy"?
  
- D) Come to class on the first day in September with the book (if you buy it); this assignment; and any additional notes you take. Good luck!