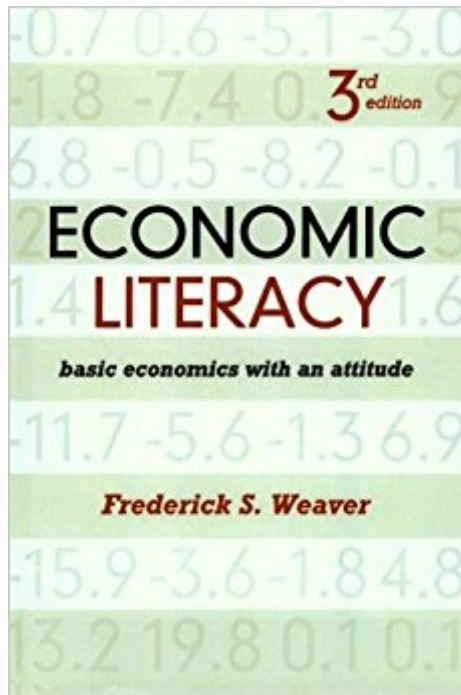




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# Economic Literacy: Basic Economics With An Attitude



## Synopsis

In its third edition, *Economic Literacy: Basic Economics with An Attitude*, explains the logic, language, and worldview of economic theory, in a continuation of the engaging style that made earlier editions so accessible to the reader. While covering the fundamentals of the discipline, the author also includes a wide range of new material focusing on the structure, causes and results of the 'Great Recession'. From microeconomics and macroeconomics to the composition of international and domestic economies, *Economic Literacy* also makes the key distinction between economics as an academic discipline and the economy as a practical reality. Never grim, often witty, and frequently insightful into our turbulent financial times, *Economic Literacy's* third edition is a must for students of economics everywhere.

## Book Information

Paperback: 290 pages

Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers; 3 edition (September 16, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442204222

ISBN-13: 978-1442204225

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.7 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #93,005 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Textbooks > Business & Finance > Economics > Economic Theory](#) #177 in [Books > Business & Money > Economics > Theory](#)

## Customer Reviews

Through this text, Weaver invites the beginning economics student to become an active participant rather than passive recipient in the study of mainstream economics. The standard model and its logic are clearly and thoroughly presented, yet Weaver does so with a degree of critical thinking and a touch of skepticism – an attitude – that enable students to question and consider as they learn the conventional micro and macro principles. The text provides a firm foundation for further study of economics, for interdisciplinary work in the social sciences, particularly historical capitalism, political economy, and globalization, and, in its final chapter, demonstrates the applicability of these principles in addressing and assessing our current moment of world-wide economic instability. (Jeanne Hahn, The Evergreen State College)

Praise for the second edition: In

this new edition , Weaver highlights the major economic concepts of micro- and macroeconomic principles at the undergraduate level. . . . The volume is written in a straightforward, nontechnical manner with notable historical context . . . An excellent read for those seeking a casual overview of introductory economics. Highly recommended. (CHOICE) Praise for the Second Edition: Economic Literacy has provided my students with accessible information in a readable format. The author's additions on Social Security, tax reform, and other crucial issues will be a great contribution to my students' understanding of economics. I am looking forward to assigning the second edition. Thanks for a great text! (Avra J. Johnson, Minnesota State University, Mankato) Praise for the Second Edition: Clear, concise, and witty enough to keep students reading, Economic Literacy is perfect for my politics courses in which basic economics is a necessary prerequisite rather than the focus of the class. (Alexandra Guisinger, University of Notre Dame) Weaver (emer., Hampshire College) offers an updated (2nd ed., CH, Mar'07, 44-3973) and useful summary of the traditional principles of an economics college course. Using a first-person, conversational style, he covers many topics and hundreds of key terms....Recommended. (CHOICE)

Frederick S. Weaver is professor emeritus of economics and history at Hampshire College, and his two most recent books are *Latin America in the World Economy: Mercantile Colonialism to Global Capitalism* (2000) and *Global and Local: Re-visioning the Area Studies Debate* (2003) with Ali Mirsepassi and Amrita Basu. He has taught introductory economics for over forty years at five colleges and universities - public and private, large and small, high-wage and low-wage, lively and grim.

Needed for a MPA class

I am happy with my purchase.

Good information, but a little difficult to read

I majored in economics in college, something that I still haven't decided if it was the right thing to do. This book billed itself as teaching economics "with an attitude". Not sure in the end what that really meant, although the good professor does include some humor and sarcasm. What was true for me, however, is that economics remains a challenging topic. Why exactly demand or supply curves shift left or right, I'm still not entirely clear, or at least it is still not second nature for me. For someone who

is new to the subject, I do believe that a book like this will be helpful, as Weaver strays away from use of functions and also challenges the reader to work problems out on his or her own. However, I did what most people do, which is just skip the work-it-out-for-yourself part. In many ways this book is a mini-primer on micro and macro-economics, with clear presentations on supply and demand, the various types of firms and their organization, fiscal and monetary policy, as well as the new, interdependent international economy. The one statement that I found somewhat startling, was Weaver's claim that the Soviet economy raised living standards for people living under that regime. If it did, it was at a great loss of personal liberty.

I think this is a good introduction to economic theory. It manages to provide the reader with a fair overview of economic concepts and institutions, including a final chapter on globalization. However I found that throughout the six chapters, the jargon is heavy and the author describes the issues in analytical terms sometimes too advanced for a basic economics text. Some of the graphs, on the other hand, are quite useful.

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