

**Reading List**  
**Gary S. Becker**  
**Economics 343**  
**Spring 2005**  
**Human Capital and the Economy**

\* **Recommended, not required.**

**1. Human Capital, and Intergenerational Mobility**

Becker, G.S., *Treatise on the Family*, Supplement to Chapter VII

Solon, Gary, "Intergenerational Income Mobility in the United States", *American Economic Review*, 1992.

Mulligan, Casey, *Parental Priorities and Economic Inequality*, 1997, Chapters 2-3, 5-8.

\* Doepke, Mathias, "Fertility, Income Distribution, and Growth", unpublished PhD dissertation, Chicago, 2000, Chapters 1-7.

Becker, G.S., *Human Capital, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*: "Addendum: Education and the Distribution of Income", pp 102-131.

**2. Investment in Schooling and Training**

Becker, G.S., *Human Capital*, 3rd ed (University of Chicago Press, 1993): Part 1

Willis, Robert, "Wage Determinant: A Survey and Reinterpretation of Human Capital Earnings Functions," in *Handbook of Labor Economics*, O. Ashenfelter and R. Layard (eds.), Amsterdam: North Holland, 1987.

\* Smith, Adam, *Wealth of Nations*, Book I, Chapter 3.

Card, David, "Earnings, Schooling, and Ability Revisited", *Research in Labor Economics*, (1995): 23-48.

Heckman, James, "Identifying the Role of Cognitive Ability in Explaining the Level Of and Changes in the Return to Schooling", NBER #7820, 2003.

**3. The New Economics of Mortality**

Murphy, K. and Topel, R., "The Value of Health and Longevity",  
[http://economics.uchicago.edu/download/The\\_Economic\\_Value\\_of\\_Health\\_&\\_.pdf](http://economics.uchicago.edu/download/The_Economic_Value_of_Health_&_.pdf)

Nordhaus, W.D., "The Health of Nations: The Contribution of Improved Health to Living Standards," pp 9-41, in *Measuring the Gains from Medical Research*, ed. by K.M. Murphy and Robert Topel, University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Becker, G.S., Tomas Philipson, and Rodrigo Soares, "The Quantity and Quality of Life and the Evolution of World Inequality",  
[http://economics.uchicago.edu/download/BPS-AER\\_final\\_version-06-17.pdf](http://economics.uchicago.edu/download/BPS-AER_final_version-06-17.pdf)

- \* Cerda, Rodrigo, "Drugs, Population and Market Size", unpublished PhD dissertation, 2003, Chapters 2, 4.
- \* Acemoglu, Daron, "Market Size in Innovation: Theory and Evidence From the Pharmaceutical Industry",  
<http://economics.uchicago.edu/download/innovationmarketsizesep22.pdf>

Lichenberg, Frank, "Pharmaceutical Innovation, Mortality Reductions, and Economic Growth", pp 74-110, in *Measuring the Gains from Medical Research*, ed. by K.M. Murphy and Robert Topel, University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Hall, Robert E. and Jones, Charles I., "The Value of Life and the Rise in Health Spending", <http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~chad/hx200.pdf>

#### **4. Human Capital and Specialization**

Becker, G. S. and Murphy, Kevin M., "The Division of Labor, Coordination Costs and Knowledge" reprinted in *Human Capital* by Becker: Chapter XI

- \* Murphy, Kevin, "Specialization and Human Capital," Ph.D. thesis, Department of Economics, University of Chicago, 1986
- Rosen, S., "The Division of Labor and the Extent of the Market," *Journal of Labor Economics* (1983): 43-49.
- Romer, P. "Growth Based on Increasing Returns Due to Specialization," *American Economic Review* 77 (February 1987): 56-62

#### **5. Growth, Population, and Human Capital**

Becker, G.S. *A Treatise on the Family*, expanded edition (Harvard, 1991), chapter 5, supplement to chapter 5

Kremer, M. "Population Growth and Technological Change: One Million B.C. to 1990," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 108, 3 (August, 1993): 681-716

- \* Jones, Chad, "Was an Industrial Revolution Inevitable? Economic Growth Over the Very Long Run", *Advances in Macroeconomics*, August 2001, Vol. 1, No. 2, Article 1.
- Becker, G.S., Murphy, K. and Tamura, R. "Human Capital, Fertility and Economic Growth" reprinted in Becker, *Human Capital*, Third Edition (University of Chicago Press, 1993), Chapter XII

\* "Population Prospects, The 2002 Revision", Volume III: Analytical Report, *United Nations*, New York, 2004

Meltzer, D. "Mortality Decline, the Demographic Transition, and Economic Growth," dissertation, University of Chicago, December 1992, chapters 3 and 4.

Heckman, James, "China's Investment in Human capital, NBER, #9296, 2003.