



# The Carl Menger Essay Contest

The Society for the Development of Austrian Economics is pleased to announce the inaugural Carl Menger Essay Contest. The purpose of the contest is to recognize and encourage undergraduate scholarship in the Austrian tradition and the broadly catallactic approach to social science which it represents, an approach common also to the Scottish Enlightenment of Smith and Hume, the French Liberal School of Say and Bastiat, the Virginia School of Buchanan and Tullock, the UCLA price theory of Alchian and Demsetz, and the Bloomington School of Vincent and Elinor Ostrom, among others. We invite essays that explore, advance, challenge, or apply the ideas of these and related schools of thought.

Three winners will receive **\$1,000** each **conditional** on attending and presenting their essays at the Society's annual meeting at the Southern Economic Association conference ([southerneconomic.org](http://southerneconomic.org)). The conference takes place on November 20-22, 2010 at the Sheraton Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Eligibility:** The contest is open to undergraduate students and recent graduates from any discipline. Entrants must be enrolled in undergraduate coursework at some point during the 2010 calendar year, and must *not* hold a Bachelor's or equivalent degree as of January 31, 2010. Those graduating at the end of the spring or summer *are* eligible.

**Rules:** Essays must be the sole and original work of the entrant and not previously published. They should be in the format of a scholarly article, with any standard citation format. Essays may either be written specifically for the contest or arise from previous coursework (e.g., term papers, research projects, senior theses, etc.). They should be between 4,000 and 12,000 words long, including notes, abstract, and bibliography.

**Topics:** Any topic related to the themes addressed by the above or related schools of thought is acceptable. Those composing original essays are welcome to address any of the following questions that are of particular interest to the Prize Committee. These are merely suggestions:

1. Among the oldest questions in economics is: why are some nations rich and others poor? How might the ideas of Carl Menger help to better answer that question?
2. Both Haiti and Chile suffered from devastating earthquakes in the past year. What does economics—understood as the science of exchange—contribute to our understanding of such tragedies?
3. Healthcare reform has entailed a wide range of new government interventions into the economy. Can the theory of rent seeking shed any light on this process or its results?

**Submission:** Essays should be submitted in **.doc** or **.pdf** format by **August 31, 2010** as an email attachment to Adam Martin ([adammartin@nyu.edu](mailto:adammartin@nyu.edu)). The author's name, address, email, phone, and school should appear **only** on the first page of the document so that submissions may be judged anonymously. Title and abstract should appear on the second page.

**Winners:** Three winners will be notified by October 1, 2010. In order to claim their prize money, they must register for, attend, and present their work at the SEA meetings. Winners must arrange and fund their own travel, lodging, and registration (at the discounted student rate), a consideration that has been factored into the prize amount.

**More Information:** More information can be found on the Society's website, [it.stlawu.edu/sdae](http://it.stlawu.edu/sdae).