Current Projects

I always connect my teaching and writing. Presently I teach public choice during the fall semester and market process theory during the spring semester. My teaching for each of those courses revolves around book projects I am developing. Pieces of those projects have been appearing in recent papers and will continue to appear in new papers, so the general contours of these forthcoming books can be discerned from my recent writings.

For the fall 2014 public choice class will center on refinements and emendations to the penultimate draft of Politics as a Peculiar Business: Public Choice in a System of Entangled Political Economy, the preface of which is attached here. This book elaborates the theme of entangled political economy that has occupied much of my attention the past few years. Politics is treated as a type of business activity, though a peculiar type due to differences in property rights as compared with ordinary business. Among other things, political phenomena are treated as products of interaction and contestation among interested parties within an evolving ecology of enterprises. In this manner, theorizing about politics is cousin to theorizing about markets.

For the spring 2015 class on market process theory, the class will explore several themes that are relevant for my next book, which I have tentatively titled Ecological Macro Theory: Exploring a Parts-to-Whole Relationship. Within this scheme of thought, there is no direct theoretical relationship among macro variables because those variables are emergent products of micro-level interaction. Macro variables are derivative and not primitive variables and, moreover, emerge from inside a non-equilibrium ecology of plans. To recall an image I have used on several occasions, society is analogized to the turbulence of a continually moving crowd of pedestrians passing through a piazza and not to the placidity of a parade.