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Due to the great variety of meanings that the word neoclassical has, there are many meaningless debates in economic courses. For this reason, it is paramount to establish a precise definition. The main goal of this paper is to show that the word neoclassical should not be used to define the mainstream. Instead, as intended by historians of economic thought, it should be used to describe a body of ideas that were developed during 1870s and 1930s.

**Keywords:** Neoclassical economics, economic theory, mathematical economics.

**JEL:** B13, B21, B23, B41.