

Markets, Morality and the Future of Capitalism

LGST 226 / PHIL 279

Spring 2009

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Office Hours: Thursdays 3-5 p.m. or by appointment

Tuesdays and Thursdays
1:30-3:00 p.m.
Room: SHDH 109

Markets play a central role in the life of a capitalist democracy. But is this a good thing? Should we let markets decide who is rich and who is poor? Who makes decisions and who follows them? Whose ideas get heard and whose ideas do not? The goal of this class will be to examine the market from the perspective of various social values to see whether we should want a market system and, if so, what kind of market system we should want. Among the issues we will examine are the following. Does the market contribute to the common good? If so, how? Does the market conflict with the idea that all human beings are of equal value? What is the relation between the market and freedom? Does the market liberate us or oppress us? Can we reconcile the market with our democratic ideals? What role should corporations play in a healthy democracy? What role should markets play in an increasingly globalized world? We will read several important philosophers, economists and political theorists writing on these issues, including Adam Smith, John Rawls, Amartya Sen, Friedrich Hayek, Karl Marx, Robert Nozick, Jürgen Habermas, Robert Dahl, and others.

Grading

30%	Midterm paper
40%	Final paper
20%	Final exam
10%	Class Participation

Midterm Paper

The midterm assignment will ask you to write a 5-7 page paper on an assigned topic. The topics will ask you to assess some claim or theory developed in one or more of the readings. Besides helping you to understand the material, the point of the midterm is to teach you how to present the views of another author and how to examine difficult ideas that are not easy to grasp on the first reading. You will be graded on the depth of your understanding of the material you are presenting and on the overall quality of your presentation. **Due by 5pm March 5**

Final paper

The final assignment will ask you to write a 7-9 page paper. You will have a choice of writing on an assigned topic or writing on a topic of your own choice. (If you are writing on your own topic,

you should discuss it with me or the teaching fellow beforehand.) The paper should address an important normative question regarding the market system and it must engage with the readings—within these boundaries, you have wide latitude in picking a topic. Some possibilities include: applying one or more of the theories we have discussed to a contemporary social issue or case study; examining a theoretical dispute between two or more authors; attacking the position of an author on a particular normative issue. Independent research may be necessary if you are writing on a contemporary social issue or a case study, but this is not required if you are writing on a more theoretical question. You will be graded on the depth of your understanding of the relevant moral issues, the quality of your reasoning, and your general grasp of the ideas that we discussed in class. **Due by 5pm April 28**

Final exam

The final exam will test your knowledge of the lectures and readings. The exam will consist of identification questions and short answer questions. The identification questions will present you with a representative passage from one of the readings and ask you to identify the author. The short answer questions will ask you to explain a central concept or idea in your own words. Any of the material covered in class or in the readings may eventually make it onto the final exam, so it is important to come to the lectures and keep up with the readings. ** May 8 **

Course materials

Gar Alperovitz, America Beyond Capitalism (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2005)

Friedrich Hayek, The Constitution of Liberty (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978)

John Rawls, A Theory of Justice, revised edition (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999)

Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999)
Coursepack

Optional:

Robert Dahl, et. al. (eds.), The Democracy Sourcebook (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2003)

Schedule of Readings

“*” indicates readings in the coursepack

I. Introduction

January 15

Introduction

II. Welfare, Efficiency and Equality

January 20 and 22

Buchanan, Ethics, Efficiency, and the Market, pg. 1-26 *

Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations, pg. 3-18 *

Cass Sunstein, “Open Source Software” (webcafe)

January 27 and 29

Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations, pg. 839-46 *

John Rawls, A Theory of Justice, §§1-3, 11, 32 and 36

February 3 and 5

John Rawls, A Theory of Justice, §§11-17 and 48

February 10 and 12

Norman Daniels, “Equal Liberty and Unequal Worth of Liberty” (skip §IV) *

Ackerman and Alstott, The Stakeholder Society, pg. 1-44 *

III. Freedom

February 17 and 19

Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia pg. 150-74 (skip 164-66), 262-5 *

Waldron, “Homelessness and the Issue of Freedom” *

February 24 and 26

New York Times, “At IBM, A Vacation Anytime, or Maybe None” (webcafe)

G.A. Cohen, Karl Marx’s Theory of History: A Defense, pg. 297-325 *

Juliet Schor, The Overworked American, pg. 17-41 and 142-57*

Optional: Karl Marx, Capital, pg. 222-5 *

Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia, pg. 246-53 *

Buchanan, Ethics, Efficiency, and the Market, pg. 26-32 *

March 3 and 5

John Kenneth Galbraith, “The Dependence Effect” (webcafe)

Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, pg. 13-34, 72-6 and 87-120

** MIDTERM PAPERS DUE MARCH 5 **

March 17 and 19

Hayek, The Constitution of Liberty, chapters 2-4
Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, pg. 254-61

IV. Globalization

March 24 and 26

Movie (in class): "Black Coffee"
Thomas Pogge, World Poverty and Human Rights, pg. 1-26 (webcafe)
Jagdish Bhagwati, In Defense of Globalization, 51-67 *

V. Democracy

March 31 and April 2

Robert Dahl, "American Hybrid" *
Joshua Cohen, "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy" *

April 7 and 9

Buckley v. Valeo, pg. 1-16 *
Charles Beitz, "Political Finance" Political Equality, pg. 192-213 *
Robert Dahl, "Democracy and the Economic Order" *

Optional: Frank Sorauf, "Inside Campaign Finance: Myths and Realities" The Democracy Sourcebook, pg. 408-418

April 14, 16 and 21

Pippa Norris "Knows Little" *
Habermas, "The Public Sphere," pg. 231-36 and Between Facts and Norms, pg. 373-9 *
Jeremy Tunstall, "World News Duopoly" (webcafe)
Owen Fiss, "The Democratic Mission of the Press" *

Optional: Habermas, The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere, pg. 159-75 *
Habermas, Between Facts and Norms, pg. 359-87 *

VI. The Future

April 23 and 28

Rajan and Zingales, Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists, pg. 275-314 *
Richard K. Lester and Michael Piore, "Universities as Public Spaces" (webcafe)
Thomas Pogge, "Brief for a Global Resources Dividend"
Alperovitz, America Beyond Capitalism, pg. 79-118

Optional: Michael Piore and Charles Sabel, The Second Industrial Divide, pgs. 28-33, 205-16, 265-80, and 286-95 *

Joshua Cohen and Charles Sabel, "Directly-Deliberative Polyarchy"
David Schweikart, After Capitalism, pg. 45-86
Edmund Phelps, Rewarding Work
Jeremy Rifkin, The End of Work, pg. 221-48 *
David Held, "The Transformation of Political Community: Rethinking Democracy in the Context of Globalization" The Democracy Sourcebook, 516-25

** FINAL PAPERS DUE APRIL 28 **

** FINAL EXAM **

** MAY 8, 9 - 11 AM **