

LGST 920: Ethics in Business and Economics
The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Fall Semester 2020

Professor Brian Berkey

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This course is a seminar for Ph.D students that will cover a range of central issues in business ethics, and in related areas of moral and political philosophy more broadly. The reading list is below, although it is subject to limited change based on student interest and other factors as the course progresses.

All course meetings will occur on Zoom. The course will alternate meeting times between Wednesday mornings and Tuesday evenings. Meetings for weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 will be Wednesday from 10:00am-1:00pm EST. Meetings for weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, and 14 will be Tuesday from 7:00-10:00pm EST. The meeting for week 10 will be on Monday evening from 7:00-10:00pm instead of Tuesday, since Tuesday is election day.

Course Requirements

The primary requirement for the course is a paper of roughly 7000-9000 words (including footnotes and references), which is due on **December 18th**. Each student should aim to discuss their planned paper topic with me by early November.

In addition, students are expected to actively participate in seminar discussion. Each student will be assigned to open our class discussion by presenting some brief thoughts on the week's material at least once during the semester. Discussion forums will also be set up on Canvas so that students who are unable to attend particular sessions can contribute their thoughts there. The forums will also serve as a place where all of us can engage outside of class time, so contributions from everyone are very much encouraged. The quality and regularity of class participation, including participation on the forums, may affect a student's course grade by one step (e.g. B+ to A-) in either direction.

Readings

Sept. 2nd (10:00am-1:00pm): *Moral Limits of Markets I: Theory*

- Debra Satz, "What Do Markets Do?" & "Noxious Markets" (*Why Some Things Should Not Be For Sale*, Chs. 1 & 4)
- Jason Brennan & Peter Jaworski, "Markets Without Symbolic Limits"
- Barry Maguire & Brookes Brown, "Markets, Interpersonal Practices, and Signal Distortion"
- Anthony Booth, "The Real Symbolic Limit of Markets"
- Julian Jonker, "The Meaning of a Market and the Meaning of 'Meaning'"

Sept. 8th (7:00-10:00pm): *Moral Limits of Markets II: Commercial Surrogacy*

- Elizabeth Landes & Richard Posner, “The Economics of the Baby Shortage”
- Michele Moody-Adams, “On Surrogacy: Morality, Markets, and Motherhood”
- Elizabeth Anderson, “Is Women’s Labor a Commodity?” (*Value in Ethics and Economics*, Ch. 8)
- Debra Satz, “Markets in Women’s Reproductive Labor” (*Why Some Things Should Not Be For Sale*, Ch. 5)

Sept. 16th (10:00am-1:00pm): *Moral Limits of Markets III: Prostitution*

- Martha Nussbaum, “Whether from Reason or Prejudice: Taking Money for Bodily Services”
- Debra Satz, “Markets in Women’s Sexual Labor” (*Why Some Things Should Not Be For Sale*, Ch. 6)
- Scott Anderson, “Prostitution and Sexual Autonomy: Making Sense of the Prohibition of Prostitution”
- Hallie Liberto, “Normalizing Prostitution versus Normalizing the Alienability of Sexual Rights: A Response to Scott Anderson” (in Anderson file)

Sept. 22nd (7:00-10:00pm): *Corporate Agency and Responsibility*

- Peter French, “The Corporation as a Moral Person”
- Manuel Velasquez, “Debunking Corporate Moral Responsibility”
- Philip Pettit, “Responsibility Incorporated”
- Susan Wolf, “The Legal and Moral Responsibility of Organizations”
- Nneka Logan, “Corporate Personhood and the Corporate Responsibility to Race”

Sept. 30th (10:00am-1:00pm): *Corporate Emotion and Blame*

- Gunnar Bjornsson & Kendy Hess, “Corporate Crocodile Tears? On the Reactive Attitudes of Corporate Agents”
- Amy Sepinwall, “Blame, Emotion, and the Corporation”
- David Shoemaker, “Blameworthy but Unblameable: A Paradox of Corporate Responsibility”
- Andrew Cohen & Jennifer Samp, “On the Possibility of Corporate Apologies”

Oct. 6th (7:00-10:00pm): *Corporate Moral Status and Obligation*

- Kenneth Silver, “Can a Corporation be Worthy of Moral Consideration?”
- John Hasnas, “Should Corporations Have the Right to Vote? A Paradox in the Theory of Corporate Moral Agency”
- Kenneth Silver, “Do I Think Corporations Should Be Able to Vote Now?” (in Hasnas file)
- John Hasnas, “Corporations and Voting: A Response to Kenneth Silver” (in Hasnas file)
- Stephanie Collins & Holly Lawford-Smith, “Collectives’ and Individuals’ Obligations: A Parity Argument”
- Brian Berkey, “Collective Obligations and Demandingness Complaints”

Oct. 14th (10:00am-1:00pm): *Distributive Justice I: Libertarianism*

- Robert Nozick, “Distributive Justice” (*Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Ch. 7, Section I)
- Susan Moller Okin, “Libertarianism: Matriarchy, Slavery, and Dystopia” (*Justice, Gender, and the Family*, Ch. 4)
- Bernard Boxill, “A Lockean Argument for Black Reparations”
- Matt Zwolinski, “Libertarianism and Pollution”

Oct. 20th (7:00-10:00pm): *Distributive Justice II: Rawls and Liberal Egalitarianism*

- John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Ch. 1, Sections 1-4; Ch. 2, Sections 10-17
- Susan Moller Okin, “Justice as Fairness: For Whom?” (*Justice, Gender, and the Family*, Ch. 5)
- Tommie Shelby, “Race and Social Justice: Rawlsian Considerations”
- Charles Mills, “Retrieving Rawls for Racial Justice: A Critique of Tommie Shelby”
- Tommie Shelby, “Racial Realities and Corrective Justice: A Reply to Charles Mills” (in Mills file)

Oct. 28th (10:00am-1:00pm): *Distributive Justice III: Political Liberalism and the Basic Structure*

- John Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, Lecture 1, Sections 1-3; Lecture 7, Sections 1-5
- G.A. Cohen, “The Basic Structure Objection” (*Rescuing Justice and Equality*, Ch. 3)
- Gina Schouten, “Restricting Justice: Political Intervention in the Home and in the Market”
- D.C. Matthew, “Purview and Permissibility: The Site of Justice and the Case of Private Racial Discrimination”

Nov. 2nd (7:00-10:00pm): *Rawlsian Theory and Business Ethics*

- Abraham Singer, “There is No Rawlsian Theory of Corporate Governance”
- Sandrine Blanc & Ismael Al-Amoudi, “Corporate Institutions in a Weakened Welfare State: A Rawlsian Perspective”
- Brian Berkey, “Rawlsian Institutionalism and Business Ethics: Does it Matter Whether Corporations are Part of the Basic Structure of Society?”

Nov. 11th (10:00am-1:00pm): *Sweatshops and Exploitation*

- Matt Zwolinski, “Sweatshops, Choice, and Exploitation”
- Michael Kates, “Sweatshops, Exploitation, and the Case for a Fair Wage”
- Iris Marion Young, “Responsibility and Global Labor Justice”
- Brian Berkey, “Sweatshops, Structural Injustice, and the Wrong of Exploitation: Why Multinational Corporations Have Positive Duties to the Global Poor”

Nov. 17th (7:00-10:00pm): *Ethical Consumerism*

- Holly Lawford-Smith, “Does Purchasing Make Consumers Complicit in Global Labour Injustice?”
- Benjamin Ferguson & Florian Ostmann, “Sweatshops and Consumer Choices”
- Waheed Hussain, “Is Ethical Consumerism an Impermissible Form of Vigilantism?”

- Christian Barry & Kate MacDonald, “Ethical Consumerism: A Defense of Market Vigilantism”
- Nicole Hassoun, “Consumerism and Social Change”

Nov. 25th (10:00am-1:00pm): *Discrimination*

- Adrian Piper, “Two Kinds of Discrimination”
- Sophia Moreau, “What is Discrimination?”
- Julian Jonker, “Beyond the Comparative Test for Discrimination”
- Kaspar Lippert-Rasmussen, “The Badness of Discrimination”
- Adam Slavny & Tom Parr, “Harmless Discrimination”

Dec. 1st (7:00-10:00pm): *Affirmative Action*

- Bernard Boxill, “Discrimination, Affirmative Action, and Diversity in Business”
- Louis Pojman, “The Case Against Affirmative Action”
- Kwame Anthony Appiah, “‘Group Rights’ and Racial Affirmative Action”
- Julian Jonker, “Affirmative Action for Non-Racialists”
- Anita Allen, “Was I Entitled or Should I Apologize? Affirmative Action Going Forward”