

The Good, The Bad, and the Market

Honors class
HON 291

Spring 2019

Meets T, R: 9-10.15
Room: CSS, 176

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Office hours: W: 2-4 or by app.

This course will use political and social philosophy to examine what makes markets and societies just. We will explore issues concerning human rationality, the origin of property rights, ethical allocation of goods, alienation and meaningful work, collective action and exploitation, and the ethics of distribution more generally. We will ask what, if any, should be the role of government in constraining markets. The class will also offer a critical, normative look at alternative systems of economic organization such as socialism as well as different modes of economic distribution within capitalism, which may include basic income, participation income, and other forms of social democracy policy instruments and institutions.

Book required: *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*, edited by Jonathan Anomaly, et al Oxford University Press—available at bookstore or on Amazon. Other materials posted on Canvas

Course Requirements: One final research paper (and proposal, for 50 percent of the total grade)) and weekly short reaction assignments (1000 words) due on Sunday by 8

pm for the previous week of readings, post onto Canvas. The postings will be graded on three points: 1 point is regular, 2 points is good, 3 points is excellent (35 percent total grade). If you miss a week your grade will decrease by one letter grade. To get the full 35 percent, you must not have more than three regular postings and at least 10 excellent ones (14 in total). Participation in class carries 25 percent of the total grade

Additional items: The class will go to a theater play at [the Rollins Play House](#)--The Good Person of Setzuan by B. Brecht on February 15 at 8 pm, free entrance. This is mandatory. You will write a short reaction paper for class after it (see below)

Academic Integrity

You must become familiar with Rollins' Academic Honor Code. You can find the code online at: http://www.rollins.edu/studentrecords/main/academic_regulations.html
Please read the honor pledge and learn what constitutes an honor code violation, especially as regards cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism is intellectual theft and you must know what constitutes it to avoid it. Failing to cite sources or incorrectly citing your sources constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism can be unintentional, but it should be punished regardless of intention since it devalues academic quality, and irrevocably damages the credibility of the individual responsible for it. Because of this, please refrain from committing it, by getting familiarized with the honor code.

Evaluation Criteria

In this class, average work earns a C. If the student writes an acceptable exam, and fulfills all the other assignments for the class, she will receive a C. Students receiving an A will have written an excellent exam, or set thereof, participated actively in class, and fulfilled all the other requisites for the course equally satisfactorily. A B range grade will be awarded for students who fulfill the criteria for a C, but their written assignments are of superior quality. The participation grade will be based upon the quality and quantity of participation. For this reason, it is advisable that you carefully reflect on what you are going to contribute to the class. The superior A grade will be awarded to students who regularly offer insightful comments. Coming to my office hours also contributes to a good grade for this class. Excessive absences will make it impossible for you to receive a grade above the C range. (they can also make you fail the class).

Attendance Policy

Your attendance in every class session is essential. *You are allowed a total of four absences.* Each absence over the specified limits will result in the final grade being dropped 1/3 of a letter. Therefore, if your final numerical grade is equivalent to a B-, and you have five absences, your final grade for the course would drop to a C+. Arriving after attendance has been taken counts as one half of an absence. You should save your absences for dire emergencies or serious illnesses. Meetings, job interviews, or early departures for weekend trips are not excused and will count as absences. **Religious holidays are justified absences but please announce them to me in advance so that I don't mark them as unjustified**

Disability Services Statement

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability on this campus and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodations in order to participate in your classes, please make timely arrangements by disclosing this disability in writing to the Disability Services Office at (box 2613) - Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park, FL, 32789. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 407-646-2354 or email: gridgey@rollins.edu

Week 1-2

Justification of Private property:

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 1-5, J. J Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality*, Jeremy Waldron, extracts from *The Right to Private Property* (Oxford), TC Gray “The Disintegration of Property” in Pennock and Chapman (eds) *Property NOMOS XII*, 1980, Carol Rose, “Possession as the Origin of Property.” *In Property and Persuasion*, Westview-- all in canvas

Week 3

Property in the Commons and Collective Action:

Chapter 6 in Jonathan Anomaly’s *Philosophy, Politics and Economics* (anthology): Mancur Olson, “The Logic of Collective Action”, Jean Hampton “Collective Action problems in the Production of Collective Goods.” Samuel Bowles et al. “The Evolutionary Basis of Collective Action.”

- Case study: The Israeli Kibbutz: An economic abnormality or a possibility? (CANVAS)

Week 4

Markets, Value, and Alienation

Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts* (1844), “Alienated Labor” (first manuscript) + “Private Property and Labor” (third manuscript), Arthur DiQuattro, “Alienation and Justice in the Market.” (*American Political Science Review*), Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, pp. 8-62, canvas

Week 5

Allocation and Fair Access

Jason Brennan et al. “Markets Without Symbolic Meaning” (*Ethics*), Michael Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy*, chapters-1-4, Hayek : “The Use of Knowledge in Society” in Anomaly book, Amartya Sen “The Moral Standing of The Market.” (*Social Philosophy and Policy*)

Week 6 and 7

Markets on the Margin: What Money Can't Buy?

Michael Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy* (chs 5-7), Chapter 13 in Anomaly book: Powell et al “The Ethical and Economic Case Against Sweatshop Labor.” Gerald Dworkin, “Markets and Morals. The Case for Organ Sales.” Jeremy Snyder “What's the Matter with Price Gouging?” , Jeffrey Mirror “The Economics of Drugs Prohibition.”

Week 8

Distributive Justice and Economic Systems

David Hume, discussion on distributive justice in section III, pt II of *An Inquiry into The Principles of Morals* in Zwolinski, *Arguing Political Philosophy* chapter 2c (Distributive Justice), John Rawls *A Theory of Justice* (ch 7 excerpt of a theory of justice in Anomaly book), Jason Brennan, excerpt from *Why Not Capitalism?*. Gerald Cohen, excerpt from *Why Not Socialism?* All in canvas

Paper proposal due, will announce

Week 9

Justice, Meaningful Work, and Compensation

Julia Maskivker, “Wage Justice and Essential Work.”, unpublished manuscript *Ethics*, RA Cordero “Morality and the Minimum Wage.” *Journal of Social Philosophy*, J. Zimmerman “Coercive Wage Offers.” *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Adam Smith *Wealth of Nations*, book I, chapter 8, “on wages”, J. Maskivker, *Self-realization and Justice*, chs 1-2, all in canvas

Week 10

Coercion on the Job and “Real Freedom” via a Basic income

Elizabeth Anderson, *Private Government*, 1-5, , Josh Diem, “ The Problem with Coercion at Work” (Medium), Phillippe Van Parijs, *Real Freedom for All. What (if Anything) Can Justify Capitalism?*”(chs 1-5), J Maskivker, *Self-realization and Justice*, ch 3, in canvas

Week 11 and 12

Utility and Justice

Jeremy Bentham, excerpt from *An Introduction to the Principle of Morals and Legislation*, JS Mill, *Utilitarianism* (all), Bernard Williams, “ Against Utilitarianism” + Menger, chapter 1: “ The General Theory of the Good.” In *Principles of Economics*, Bohm-Bawerk, Book III, ch 4, “ Marginal Utility” in *The Positive Theory of Capital*, Horwitz et al, “ A Test of Diminishing Marginal Value.” *Economica* , all in Canvas
Thomas Scanlon, “ Preferences and Urgency.” (*The Journal of Philosophy*)

Week 13

Welfare State, Exploitation, and Power

James Nickel, “ A Defense of Welfare Rights as Human Rights” in *Contemporary Debates in Political Philosophy*, edited by T Christiano et. al (in Canvas), Henry Shue, *Basic Rights*, chs 1-3, Alvin Goldman, “ Toward a Theory of Social Power” (*Philosophical Studies*), Cheshire Calhoun, “ Justice, Care, and Gender Bias.” (*The Journal of Political Philosophy*) , excerpt from TH Marshall *Citizenship and Social Class*, Sarah Miller, *The Ethics of Need*, ch 1-2, Nozick, esxerpt from *Anarchy, State and Utopia*

Week 14

(Global) Justice and Cosmopolitanism

Thomas Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, chs 1-3, Peter Singer, “ Famine, Affluence, and Morality” (*Philosophy and Public Affairs*), Gertrude Himmerlfarb, “The illusions of Cosmpolitanism.” In *For Love of Country*, ed. Joshua Cohen,
J.M Buchanan “ The Samaritan’s Dilemma” In *Altruism, Morality and Economic Theory*, ed. Thomas Phelps, N. Reilly, “ Cosmopolitan Feminism and Human Rights.” (*Hypatia*), Onora O’Neill, “ Justice, Gender, and International Boundaries” in *The Quality of Life*, ed. M. Nussbaum and A. Sen