

Tufts University
Fall 2016
Mon/Wed, 10:30-11:45
Jackson 006

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Office hours: Mon, 2:00-4:00
Packard Hall 109

PS 004-02 – First-Year Tutorial in Political Theory: Capitalism, For and Against

A great deal of contemporary political debate revolves around the pros and cons of capitalism, but these debates are in fact nothing new: while the term “capitalism” did not arise until the nineteenth century, arguments over the benefits and drawbacks of private property, commerce, and economic inequality have persisted for over two thousand years. This course will draw on some of the seminal philosophical discussions of these issues to address some of the biggest questions in the debate over capitalism: Are capitalist societies just or are they full of inequality and exploitation? Do they give people freedom or oppress them in one way or another? Do they encourage virtue or vice, excellence or mediocrity, happiness or misery? Are there other types of society that would be preferable? What might be done to improve capitalist societies?

Course Format and Requirements:

By far the most important requirement of the course is that you complete all assigned readings *carefully* and *before class*. My recommendation is to go over the readings relatively quickly once, to see what topics are covered and to pick out the main ideas, and then do them again, slowly and carefully, taking notes about what seems important or intriguing and about what you don't fully understand. These notes will also help immensely in generating useful and stimulating class discussion. To facilitate reading, I will hand out a list of study questions on each text; these questions can be used to guide your reading but are not exhaustive.

The class will be conducted in seminar format, and you should plan on participating every day. High-level participation requires that you grapple with the central ideas and arguments of the readings ahead of time, and bring to class any questions or confusions you might have. Note that class participation is not simply a “fudge factor” in determining your grade; a key component of the course is learning to articulate your thoughts/questions and to engage in our conversation about the issues at hand. You can expect to be called on if you do not volunteer. For those who feel nervous about talking in class, I encourage you to come see me early in the semester so that we can develop strategies for effective participation. You should always bring the relevant text to class.

Attendance is required; more than two absences will affect your participation grade, and absence from more than a third of the classes will automatically result in a failing grade. Students arriving late will generally be counted as absent.

There will be three paper assignments (5-6 pages each) over the course of the semester – see the schedule below. You are required to write all three of the papers in order to pass the course, but I will drop the lowest of the three paper grades. The papers will be analytical in nature and won't require any research beyond the course readings; topics and guidelines will be handed out several classes in advance of the due date. Late papers will be penalized by 5 percentage points

for each day they are late.

There will also be a comprehensive final exam, which will consist of short-answer and essay questions. The exam must be taken on the date scheduled by the university.

All written assignments will be given a numerical grade on the following scale:

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	59 and below

Grades will be determined as follows:

Class participation	20 %
Two papers	25 % each
Final exam	30 %

The university's policy on academic honesty will be strictly adhered to. For more information on plagiarism and the proper citing of sources, see:

<http://students.tufts.edu/academic-advice-and-support/academic-resource-center/what-we-offer/writing-support/avoiding>

Required Texts:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*, ed. John T. Scott (University of Chicago Press, 2012). ISBN: 9780226151311.

Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, ed. A. L. Macfie and D. D. Raphael (Liberty Fund, 1982). ISBN: 9780865970120.

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, ed. R. H. Campbell and A. S. Skinner (Liberty Fund, 1981). Two volumes. ISBN: 9780865970083.

Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*, ed. Lawrence H. Simon (Hackett, 1994). ISBN: 9780872202184.

F. A. Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty: The Definitive Edition*, ed. Ronald Hamowy (University of Chicago Press, 2011). ISBN: 9780226315393.

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, revised edition (Harvard University Press, 1999). ISBN: 9780674000780.

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (Basic Books, 2013). ISBN: 9780465051007.

These books are available at the bookstore; please buy the editions listed here. All other readings will be made available on Trunk.

Course Schedule and Readings:

- 9/7 Introduction
- 9/12 Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 1, chapters 1-11 (Trunk, pp. 7-33)
- 9/14 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* II-II, Q. 66 (A. 1-2, 7) and Q. 118 (A. 1, 3) (Trunk, pp. 130-3, 139-40, 158-61)
Martin Luther, selection from “On Trading and Usury” (Trunk, pp. 12-25)
- 9/19 John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapters 2-3, 5, and 8 (§95-99) (Trunk, pp. 8-16, 18-30, 52-3)
- 9/21 Bernard Mandeville, *The Fable of the Bees* (Trunk, pp. 242-54)
David Hume, “Of Refinement in the Arts” and “Of the Jealousy of Trade” (Trunk, pp. 268-80, 327-31)
- 9/26 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *First Discourse* (pp. 2-36) and “Preface to *Narcissus*” (Trunk, pp. 92-106)
- 9/28 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Preface, first half of Part 1, and Notes 9, 16 (pp. 38-9, 51-75, 127-33, 147-9)
- 10/3 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, second half of Part 1 and Note 15 (pp. 75-90, 147)
- 10/5 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Part 2 (pp. 91-117)
First paper topics handed out in class
- 10/7 **Individual meetings with me about papers; bring thesis and/or outline**
(Friday)
- 10/10 No class – Indigenous Peoples Day
- 10/12 Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 9-19, 67-71, 78-85, 109-19, 134-8, 156-61
(Make sure you’re reading the text and not the editors’ introduction.)
- 10/14 **First paper due by noon (in my box in Packard Hall)**
(Friday)
- 10/17 Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 50-66, 149-51, 179-87, 212-17, 231-4
- 10/19 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. 10-30, 82-101, 330-49, 452-6
(Again, make sure you’re reading the text and not the editors’ introduction.)

- 10/24 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. 687-8, 723-31, 781-99, 814-16
- 10/26 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. 689-701, 706-23, 381-90, 397-405, 411-22
- 10/31 Karl Marx, selections from “On the Jewish Question” (pp. 2-10, 14-21)
- 11/2 Karl Marx, selections from *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* and *The German Ideology* (pp. 58-67, 107-12, 123-5, 129-31)
- 11/7 Karl Marx, selection from *The Communist Manifesto* (pp. 158-76)
- 11/9 Karl Marx, selections from “Critique of the Gotha Program” (pp. 318-22, 327-32)
Second paper topics handed out in class
- 11/14 Friedrich Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty*, introduction and chapters 1-3 (pp. 47-106)
- 11/16 Friedrich Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty*, chapters 19-20 and “Postscript: Why I Am Not a Conservative” (pp. 405-50, 519-33)
- 11/18 **Second paper due by noon (in my box in Packard Hall)**
(Friday)
- 11/21 John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, sections 1-6 (pp. 3-30)
- 11/23 No class – Thanksgiving
- 11/28 John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, sections 11-14, 17, 48 (pp. 52-78, 86-93, 273-7)
- 11/30 John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, sections 20, 22, 24-26 (pp. 102-5, 109-12, 118-39)
- 12/5 Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, pp. ix-xiv, 149-64, 167-74
- 12/7 Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, pp. 183-204, 228-38
- 12/12 Review
Third paper topics handed out in class
- 12/16 **Final exam, 3:30-5:30**
(Friday)
- 12/21 **Third paper due by noon (in my box in Packard Hall)**
(Wednesday)