

Philosophy of Social Science – PHI 3420

Life on the Open Market

- Professor:** Jon Rick
Philosophy Department
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Office: FLO 310 (Griffin-Floyd Hall)
- Professor's Office Hours:** T: 10:45-12:00 /R: 10:45-12:00 in FLO 310, or by Appointment
- Course Location/Times:** Tuesday: Periods 2-3 (8:30am-10:25am) in MAT 0116
Thursday: Period 3 (9:35am-10:25am) in MAT 0116
- Course Website:** <https://elearning.ufl.edu> (Canvas)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Ours is an age in which, for the right price, almost anything can be bought and sold. It is an age where the mechanism of the Market reigns supreme in organizing the production and distribution of nearly everything we might value (and, indeed, also much of what we don't). Ours is not merely a market economy but a *market society*: The principles of market exchange increasingly govern more and more of our social life, well beyond even the buying and selling of material goods. Living in a market society, like any society, has its benefits and burdens. The aim of this course is to interrogate the value of living life on the open market. These will be our governing, guiding questions: What exactly is a market, and what are the moral underpinnings, moral successes, and moral limitations of markets? While markets are extremely effective at telling us how much things *cost*, do they help or hinder us in determining how much things are *worth*? In responding to these guiding questions, we will examine various topics in Social Philosophy – and the Social Sciences, more broadly – which reside at the intersection of Politics, Ethics, and Economics. Topics include the division of and marketization of labor; the exploitation of labor; the moral psychology of economic motivation; and the infiltration of markets into areas of our life, which we might have presumed were not for sale. Our readings will include both historical and contemporary sources.

REQUIRED READINGS:

All required readings for this course will be made available in a folder named 'Readings' (under 'Files') on our course's Canvas page.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Identify, describe and explain the major arguments and options a core area of the philosophy of social science.
 - Discern the structure of arguments, to represent them fairly and clearly and to evaluate them for cogency.
 - Formulate original arguments, anticipating objections and responding in a conscientious fashion.
 - Read and discuss complex philosophical texts from contemporary & historical works.
 - Speak and write clearly and persuasively about abstract and conceptually elusive matters.
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) **Attendance:** Attendance is required for this course, beginning on Thursday, January 9th. Each student begins the term with an attendance mark of 80 points (out of 100 possible points). Each time you attend a class session, your attendance mark increases by 1 point. Each time you have an unexcused absence, your attendance mark decreases by 2 points. A little math will reveal that you can have two unexcused absences and still end up with a 100% grade for attendance. The highest possible attendance grade is 100%. **Attendance is worth 5% of the final grade.**
- 2) **Participation:** You will be expected to have read and to be prepared to discuss the texts assigned for each of the Tuesday/Thursday lecture meetings. As attendance is a separate grade, merely attending class will not influence your participation mark. In order to gain full participation marks (up to 100%), you will need to engage in class discussion and any in-class assignment activities. Attending office hours will supplement your participation mark. **Participation is worth 10% of your final grade.**
- 3) **First Paper:** Your first writing assignment is a short argument reconstruction assignment. Prompts will be distributed via Canvas. It is due at 5:00pm on Sunday, Feb. 16th via Canvas. **This First Paper is worth 15% of your final grade.**
- 4) **Second Paper:** Your second writing assignment will be a slightly longer (but still rather short) writing assignment. Prompts will be distributed via Canvas. It is due at 5:00pm on Sunday, Mar. 22nd via Canvas. **This Second Paper is worth 20% of your final grade.**
- 5) **Third Paper:** Your third writing assignment will be your longest and final paper (but still not too terribly long!). This third writing assignment will be related to your in-class debate work. Prompts will be distributed via Canvas. It is due at 5:00pm on Friday, Apr. 24th via Canvas. **This Third Paper is worth 30% of your final grade.**
- 6) **In-Class Debates:** During our final three class meetings (4/14, 4/16, 4/21) we will have a series of debates over topics that we've discussed during the course of the term. You must attend and participate in these debates to receive this great – there will be no alternative assignment for the debates. Each debate team will consist of 3-4 students, each of whom will speak for

roughly 3-5 minutes. There will be a written and an oral component of the debate mark. **This debate is worth 17% of your final grade.**

- 7) **Debate Evaluations:** You will be critically assessing the debates in which you are not a direct participant. You must be an attendance to complete these evaluations. **These Debate Evaluations are worth 3% of your final grade.**

ADDITIONAL COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. **Source Materials:** Any source materials appealed to in your papers that do not come from assigned course texts, *must* be cleared with me at least 1 week prior to the due date of the assignment. If you do not clear additional sources with me 1 week prior to turning in your paper, you will be penalized (10% for each source not-cleared, *only if* the source is cited). None of the assignments for this class will require resources beyond the required readings.
2. **Text and Note Taking:** In each class meeting, we will be taking an in-depth look at the assigned readings for that session. You are expected to have a copy of the text with you, and you will benefit from being able to mark the passages that are focused on in class. You are also expected to bring a copy of the text as well as paper and something to write with to each class meeting.
3. **Course Slides:** There will be slides for *only some* class meetings, and these will be posted on the course's Canvas site after each class. **Please Note:** while these slides will provide you with *some* helpful material when drafting your papers or preparing for your debates, they *will not* cover everything that is discussed in our class meetings. In order to have the fullest understanding of the material, you will need to be present for each class and take notes on the class discussion.
4. **Discussion:** This course will be discussion-based, rather than a pure lecture. Please come to class ready to discuss the texts assigned for the day. Although we'll have our formal debates in our last three sessions, I hope we'll have many more informal ones along the way. I'm very interested in hearing what all of you have to say!

SUMMARY OF GRADED REQUIREMENTS

5%	Attendance
10%	Participation
15%	First Paper
20%	Second Paper
30%	Third Paper
17%	Debates
3%	Debate Evaluations

Grading Scale		
Letter	4 pt. scale	100 pt. scale
A	4.0 (3.835-4.0)	94-100
A-	3.67 (3.495-3.834)	90-93
B+	3.33 (3.165-3.494)	87-89
B	3.0 (2.835-3.164)	84-86
B-	2.67 (2.495-2.834)	80-83
C+	2.33 (2.165-2.494)	77-79
C	2.0 (1.835-2.164)	74-76
C-	1.67 (1.495-1.834)	70-73
D+	1.33 (1.165-1.494)	67-69
D	1.0 (0.835-1.164)	64-66
D-	0.67 (0.495-0.834)	60-63
E	0.0 (0.0-0.494)	0-59

PAPER SUBMISSION, LATE PAPER SUBMISSION, & DEBATE POLICIES

In general, requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies specified at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

More specifically, the following policies will be adhered to:

1. All in-class debates and debate evaluations will need to be completed during the class meeting in which they are scheduled. An alternative arrangement will be made *only in* cases of medical or family emergency and *only if* you meet *all of* the following conditions:
 - a. You contact me via email at least 48 hours prior to the missed debate.
 - b. You have extenuating circumstances (consistent with the University guidelines detailed in the link above) and are able to present me with a written excuse within 72 hours of the missed debate.
2. All papers will be submitted online via an Assignment/Turnitin.com link on the course's Canvas page. Papers must be submitted as either .doc or .docx files. Failure to submit in these formats will result in penalties and will require resubmission in the proper format.
3. Late submission of papers will be penalized 3% for each day that the assignment is late. For instance, if a paper is due on Friday at 5:00pm, it will be counted as 1 day late if submitted between 5:01pm Friday and 5:00pm Saturday (submissions between 5:01pm Saturday and 5:00pm Sunday will count as 2 days late, and so on). Late submissions will be made via Canvas/Turnitin.

COURSE WEBSITE

This course is supplemented by online content in the e-Learning environment known as "Canvas." To login to the e-Learning site for this course, go to <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>, click the **e-Learning in Canvas** button, and on the next page enter your Gatorlink username and password. You can then access the course e-Learning environment by selecting PHI 3930 from the **Courses** pull-down menu at the top of the page. **If you encounter any difficulties logging in or accessing any of the course content, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352) 392-4537.**

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly

honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Please note:

- *Please turn off your cellphone (don't just silence it) when you enter the classroom.*
- *If you use a laptop/tablet for readings and notes, please disable your wireless connection when you enter the classroom.*
- *Please leave any material not related to this course in your bag during class.*

HONOR CODE & PLAGIARISM POLICY

Most instances of academic dishonesty can be avoided by thoroughly citing the resources you have used to help you understand the topic on which you're writing. **If you have read something that helped you understand the material, cite it!** Failure to cite sources is the most common (and easily avoidable) academic offence. Detailed citation instructions will be provided with your paper assignment prompts.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of “E” for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows:

“A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.”

Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

IMPORTANT CAMPUS & ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575

University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies

E-learning Technical Support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to

Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Library Support <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

Writing Studio 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

EMAIL POLICY & OFFICE HOURS

(1) If you need some practical information about the course you should **look at most recently updated syllabus on canvas**. E-mails requesting information which is available on the most recently updated syllabus or on the website may not be answered.

(2) If you want to discuss a substantive philosophical question you should bring it up in class or come to office hours. I will not be able to respond to in-depth, substantive questions about the readings or assignments over email. However, I am *more* than happy to discuss substantive questions of these sorts in office hours. So, please come and see me! I will be happy to address short, logistical, non-substantive questions over email.

(3) Although I am happy to answer any questions that you might have regarding our assignments in office hours, I will not be able to read drafts of papers.

Emails received after 5pm may not be responded to until after 9am the following day.

COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE!

1. **Be sure to read the assigned material before class.** This will help to ensure that our class time is quality time.
2. **After class, re-read the material for the session:** Pay special attention to the questions that you had before. Hopefully the material will make much more sense to you now!
3. **Bring specific questions with you to class meetings.** If there are aspects of the readings that you don't fully grasp, please bring them up in class. Philosophy can be tough! If you have a question, it's probably a good one – and it's probably one that others have as well! Don't hesitate to ask questions.
4. **See me in office hours:** It's natural to have lurking and new questions after our class discussions. That's what office hours are for! Also, I can really help you in office hours when it comes to formulating drafts and outlines of your papers. Come and see me. Don't be shy! I will help!!
5. **Manage your time well.** Many students make the mistake of waiting until a few days before papers are due to start writing. This is not a helpful way to manage your time and efforts. Getting started early on your papers by formulating outlines and drafts will *really, really* help to improve your final product. Similar considerations apply to our quizzes – make sure to stay on top of the readings. The **same number of hours** devoted to the material BEFORE class can lead to a much more efficient use of your time, better understanding, and higher grades.

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR READING & WRITING PHILOSOPHY

Here are links to Jim Pryor's guides to philosophical terms and methods, reading philosophy, and writing a philosophical paper. These are *very* helpful, short additional resources:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/index.html>

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

READING & DISCUSSION SCHEDULE (Including Assignment Due Dates):

- *This Schedule is Tentative & Subject to Revision – please read all announcements*

Tuesday 1/7 – Course Overview

1. Review of Course Syllabus & Course Objectives

UNIT 1: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON LABOR & CAPITAL IN MARKET SOCIETY

Thursday 1/9 – A Bit of Background on Market Economy & Market Society

1. Robert Heilbroner & Lester Thurow – “Capitalism: Where Do We Come From?” & “Three Great Economists,” excerpts from *Economics Explained* (11-17, 26-39)

Tuesday 1/14 – Smith on the Division of Labor & Comparative Political Economy

1. Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations*, Book I selections: Chps. 1-3 (entire), 4 (para. 1-4, 13-18), 5 (para. 1-9), 6 (para. 1-17), 7 (para. 1-12), 8 (para. 1-27, 35-40)

Thursday 1/16 – The Division of Labor & the iPhone

1. Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations*, Book I selections (cont.)
2. Jack Nicas – “A Tiny Screw Shows Why iPhones Won’t Be ‘Assembled in U.S.A.’”

Tuesday 1/21 – Smith on the Bound Fortunes of Labor & Capital

1. Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations* Book II: Intro & Chps. 1 & 3

Thursday 1/23 – Productive & Unproductive Labor

1. Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations* Book II: Intro & Chps. 1 & 3 (cont.)
2. *TBD*

Tuesday 1/28 – Smith on Free Trade and Global Markets

1. Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations*, Book IV: Intro & Chp. 2

Thursday 1/30 – Smith on Free Trade and Global Markets

1. John Cassidy – “Winners and Losers”

Tuesday 2/4 – Smith on *Laissez-Faireism* & Market Regulation

1. Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations*, Book V: Chp. 1, Part 3, Art. 2 (para. 1-9, 45-61)
2. Adam Smith – *Wealth of Nations*, Book II, Chp. 2 (para. 26-31, 48, 53, 57, 59, 65, 73-75, 86, 88-94, 106).

Thursday 2/6 – Smith on *Laissez-Faireism* & Market Regulation

1. John Cassidy – “The Volker Rule”

Tuesday 2/11 – Marx on the Estranged Labor

1. Karl Marx – “Estranged Labour,” *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*

Thursday 2/13 – Estranged Labor in Florida

1. Barbara Ehrenreich – “Serving in Florida,” from *Nickel and Dimed* (11-49)

First Paper is Due by 5:00pm on Sunday, 2/16 – Submitted via Canvas/Turnitin

Tuesday 2/18 – Marx on Commodification, Exploitation & Creation of Surplus Value

1. Karl Marx – “Commodities,” *Capital Vol. 1* (302-308, 319-329)
2. Karl Marx – *Wage Labour and Capital* (203-217)
3. Karl Marx – “The Production of Absolute Surplus-Value,” *Capital Vol. 1* (344-361)

Thursday 2/20 – Exploitation in Contemporary Capitalism

1. TBD

Tuesday 2/25 – Marx on the Inefficiency & Self-Undermining Character of Capitalism

1. Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels – *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*, Intro. & Sections I-II (473-491)

Thursday 2/27 – Recapping Unit 1

1. *No New Assigned Readings*

SPRING BREAK: 2/29 – 3/7

UNIT 2: EXPLORING THE MORAL LIMITS OF MARKET SOCIETY

Tuesday 3/10 – Markets and Moral Limitations

1. Elizabeth Anderson – “The Ethical Limitations of the Market”
2. Michael Sandel – “Markets & Morals,” from *What Money Can't Buy*

Thursday 3/12 – Markets and Crowding Out Morality

1. Michael Sandel – “How Markets Crowd Out Morals” from *What Money Can't Buy*

Tuesday 3/17 – Reproductive Labor Markets

1. **Carol Sanger** – “Developing Markets in Baby-Making” (excerpts)
2. **Elizabeth Anderson** – “Is Women’s Labor a Commodity?”

Thursday 3/19 – Reproductive Labor Markets

1. **Debra Satz** – “Markets in Women’s Reproductive Labor”

Second Paper is Due by 5:00pm on Sunday, 3/22 via Canvas/Turnitin

Tuesday 3/24 – Organ Markets

1. **Janet Radcliffe Richards** – “Nefarious Goings On: Kidney Sales and Moral Arguments”

Thursday 3/26 – Organ Markets

1. **Debra Satz** – “Ethical Issues in the Supply and Demand of Human Kidneys,” from *Why Some Things Should Not Be For Sale*

Tuesday 3/31 – Emissions Markets

1. **Peter Singer** – “One Atmosphere,” *you are only required to read the penultimate section, entitled, ‘Fairness: A Proposal’ (pp.194-197); the rest of the paper is merely recommended reading*
2. **Michael Sandel** – “It’s Immoral to Buy the Right to Pollute” (*this is only 3 pages*)
3. **Robert Goodin** – “Selling Environmental Indulgences”

Thursday 4/2 – Emissions Markets

1. **Simon Caney & Cameron Hepburn** – “Carbon Trading: Unethical, Unjust and Ineffective?”

UNIT 3: DEBATING LIFE ON THE OPEN MARKET (A MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS!)

Tuesday 4/7 – Moral Limits of Markets Review & Debate Preparation

- Discussion of Debate Format and Expectations
- Group Workshop for generating debate arguments
- *No New Assigned Reading*

Thursday 4/9 – Debate Preparation

- Group Workshop for generating debate arguments
- *No New Assigned Reading*

Tuesday 4/14 – In-Class Debates

- **Teams 1-4** (Two Debates)
- *No New Assigned Reading*

Thursday 4/16 – In-Class Debates

- **Teams 5-6** (One Debate)
- *No New Assigned Reading*

Tuesday 4/21 – In-Class Debates

- **Teams 7-8** (One Debate)
- *No New Assigned Reading*

Third Paper is Due by 5:00pm on Friday, 4/24 via Canvas/Turnitin