

# POLITICAL SCIENCE 4861: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF CAPITALISM

Marquette University  
Spring 2013, MW 2:00-3:15, WW 122

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Office Hours: M and W 12:00-1:00 and by appointment

**Course Description:** Global political events since 1989 seem to have confirmed a political victory for capitalism. Yet even champions of the free market acknowledge that its seeming triumph has itself been accompanied by a wide range of moral and political challenges – a concern that has become all the more acute in light of the recent global financial crisis. This course will focus on several of the seminal philosophical arguments both for and against capitalism in an effort to better understand both the benefits and the ills for which capitalism has been both praised and blamed. Yet in so doing, our goal will be to transcend narrowly partisan arguments for or against and to ascend to a consideration of the implications of capitalism on the central questions of political philosophy, with special focus on the questions of whether capitalism promotes or inhibits the pursuit of virtue and excellence, whether capitalism promotes or inhibits the quest for justice, and whether capitalism promotes or inhibits the realization of human freedom.

**Attendance and Expectations:** Attendance at every meeting is expected. Roll will be taken at each meeting and excessive absences will result in your termination from the class. But students are expected to do more than simply show up; thorough preparation prior to each meeting and active participation while in class are also necessary if one hopes to master the material and receive a decent grade. In preparing for class you should read assignments with the maximum possible care. To help you prepare most effectively for class discussions I will distribute a short set of study questions on the assigned reading prior to each meeting. In class you are expected to listen carefully to the contributions of your colleagues and to engage others through your own contributions. Students can expect to be called on if they do not volunteer to speak. Those inexperienced in or uncomfortable with talking in class are encouraged to come to see me early in the semester so that we can together develop useful strategies for effective participation.

**Requirements and Grading:** The final course grade will be comprised of three components: two short (5 page) papers (20% each), one longer (10-12 page) paper due at the end of term (30%), and class participation (30%). Note that this means that the quality of your class participation can significantly affect your final grade in either an upward or downward direction. As the course proceeds we will discuss the standards by which both written work and class participation will be evaluated. Finally: late papers will not be accepted unless I authorize an extension in advance.

## Course Policies:

**1. Attendance.** Attendance at every meeting is expected. Roll will be taken at each meeting and excessive absences, in accord with the policy stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin (and available online at <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#attendance>), will result in the student being withdrawn from the course and assigned a final grade of “WA.” In accord with that policy, for this course “excessive absences” will be defined as more than four meetings. Students who find themselves unable to attend a meeting of the course for either legal reasons or university-sanctioned activities are encouraged to come to see me as early as possible in the semester so that we can work out a mutually-agreeable means of making up the missed material.

**2. Academic Dishonesty.** The University has a clear policy on academic dishonesty; please see <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#academichonestypolicy>, which will direct you to the relevant section of the Undergraduate Bulletin. All instances and suspected instances of academic dishonesty will be handled in accord with the policy there specified.

**3. Electronic Devices.** Please note that our course has a policy on the use of electronic devices.

Any device with an on-off switch – especially, but not only, smartphones and tablets and laptops – MUST be set to the off position (or, better yet, left at home) during all of our class meetings. Violations of this policy will be grounds for removal from the course. The sole exception will be if you have a legitimate and documentable need to use such a device – in which case please see me as soon as possible. Short of that, you should bring nothing more to class than pen, paper, books and brains.

**4. Late Assignments.** Please note that assignments submitted after the due dates and times listed on this syllabus will not be accepted unless I authorize an extension in advance.

**5. Texts.** It is a requirement of the course that you bring your copy of the assigned text to every class meeting. If purchasing the books is impossible for financial reasons, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can make alternative arrangements. The following books are required for the course and are available at BookMarq:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, tr. Cress (Hackett, 1992)  
Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, ed. Hanley (Penguin, 2009)  
Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, ed. Skinner, 2 vols. (Penguin, 1999)  
Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*, ed. McLellan (Oxford, 2002)  
F. A. Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty*, ed. Hamowy (Chicago, 2011)

Several additional required items are available online; there are noted by the abbreviation “D2L” and can be found online at the course’s D2L site.

**Schedule of Reading and Written Assignments:** This schedule is unlikely to change, but please know that I reserve the right to amend it if necessary. Also note days on which class is cancelled due to the university’s vacation schedule.

Week 1 of January 14

M: Introduction

W: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Dedication, Preface, Part I (pp. 25-44)

Week 2 of January 21

M: No Class (MLK)

W: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Parts I-II (pp. 44-65)

Week 3 of January 28

M: Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, Part II (pp. 65-81)

W: Smith, “Letter to Edinburgh Review” (D2L); *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, IV (pp. 209-224)

Week 4 of February 4

M: Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, I.i, I.iii (pp. 13-33, 55-78)

W: Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, II.ii, III.1-3 (pp. 95-110, 133-80)

Week 5 of February 11

M: Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, VI (pp. 247-311)

W: Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, Introduction, I.i-ii, vii (vol. 1, pp. 104-121, 157-67)

Week 6 of February 18

M: Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, II.iii, III.i, iv (vol. 1, pp. 429-49, 479-84, 507-20)

W: Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, IV.ii; IV.iii.c; IV.ix.48-52 (vol. 2, pp. 29-49, 66-77, 272-75)

Week 7 of February 25

M: Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, V.i.f.1-18; V.i.g.1-16; V.i.i (vol. 2, pp. 348-54, 368-75, 375-86, 405-406)

SHORT PAPER #1 DUE AT 2:00 PM ON FEBRUARY 25.

W: Marx, *Communist Manifesto* (pp. 245-71)

Week 8 of March 4

M: Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, selections (pp. 83-104)

W: Marx, *German Ideology*; Preface to *Critique of Political Economy* (pp. 171-208, 424-27)

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 11-17

Week 9 of March 18

M: Marx, *Grundrisse*, first half (pp. 379-399)

W: Marx, *Grundrisse*, second half (pp. 400-22)

Week 10 of March 25

M: Hayek, "Use of Knowledge in Society" (D2L) and *Constitution of Liberty*, "Postscript" (pp. 519-33)

W: Hayek, *Constitution of Liberty*, Introduction and chs. 2-4 (pp. 47-54, 73-134)

Week 11 of April 1

M: No Class (Easter)

W: No Class

Week 12 of April 8

M: Hayek, *Constitution of Liberty*, chs. 1, 9-10 (pp. 57-72, 199-231)

W: Hayek, *Constitution of Liberty*, chs. 5-8 (pp. 133-96)

Week 13: of April 15

M: Hayek, *Constitution of Liberty*, chs. 17, 19-20 (pp. 369-83, 405-50)

SHORT PAPER #2 DUE AT 2:00 PM ON APRIL 17

W: Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, 1-21 (D2L)

Week 14 of April 22

M: Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, 22-43 (D2L)

W: No Class

Week 15 of April 29

M: Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, 44-62 (D2L)

W: Review and Conclusion

FINAL PAPER DUE AT 10:00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 8