

Prisoner's Dilemma and Distributive Justice



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Classroom: Biological Sciences 130, M-F 11am – 12:15pm

Office Hours: Mon/Fri 10AM-10:50AM, Tues 12:15PM-1PM – Perkins coffee shop

Course description

This interdisciplinary course provides an overview of some core conceptual tools used to analyze issues at the intersection of philosophy, politics, and economics (PPE). It also serves as the Gateway course for the PPE certificate program at Duke. Topics covered include the moral status of markets, distributive justice, liberty and paternalism, and the use of economic models to understand the behavior of voters and policymakers.

Books

Required: Anomaly (et al), *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Suggested: Gaus, *On Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*. Palgrave Press, 2006.

All other readings will be available on Sakai. Starred readings are from the PPE anthology.

Advice: Read everything on the syllabus twice – once before class, and then again after class to focus on the important ideas and arguments. For each of the main topics we cover – game theory, property, markets, etc – you should read the associated introduction in the PPE anthology.

Grading criteria

Three non-cumulative essay exams, each worth 30% of your final grade, and one quiz worth 10%. The essay exams will be taken at home, and will each involve about 5 pages of writing. (Exam dates below.) Participation can also help your grade, especially in borderline cases.

Attendance policy

Attendance will be taken. Any more than three unexcused absences will lower your grade.

Plagiarism policy

All students must abide by the Duke honor code: <http://integrity.duke.edu>

Note: **You MUST INCLUDE CITATIONS, or your grade will suffer.** (No particular format; just give enough information so that I can find the passage or section you are referring to.)

Reading Schedule

(Readings will be discussed on the dates listed.)

1. Game Theory

- (7/3-7/5) Don Ross, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – [Game Theory](#)
(§1 – Philosophical Motivation, §2 – Basic Elements, §6 – Commitment)
- (7/6) *Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (selections)
- (7/7) *Thomas Schelling, *Dynamic Models of Segregation*
- (7/10-7/11) *Gerry Mackie, *Ending Foot Binding and Inbubulation*
- (7/11) **QUIZ** – Game Theory Quiz

2. Property

- (7/12) *David Hume, *Of Justice and Property*
*John Locke, *Of Property*
*David Schmitz, *The Institution of Property*
Planet Money podcast: How Private Property Transformed China ([click here](#) or subscribe on iTunes)

3. Markets

Market Success: specialization and exchange

- (7/13) *Adam Smith, *Of the Division of Labor*
- (7/14) *Friedrich Hayek, *The Use of Knowledge in Society*
*Leonard Read, *I, Pencil*

(7/14) **Midterm 1 will be passed out**

Market Failure: externalities and public goods

- (7/17) *Tyler Cowen, *Public Goods*
*David Friedman, *Market Failures*
- (7/18) *Jonathan Anomaly, *Public Goods and Government Action*
- (7/19) (Film: [Poverty, Inc.](#))

4. Distributive Justice

Utilitarianism

- (7/20-7/21) *J. S. Mill, *Utilitarianism* (selections)
Optional supplement: Stanford Encyclopedia - [Consequentialism](#)

(7/22) **PAPER – Midterm 1 Due** at 11:59PM

Contractualism

- (7/24-7/25) *John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (selections)
Optional supplement: Stanford Encyclopedia – [Justice as Fairness](#)

Libertarianism

(7/26) **Midterm 2 will be passed out**

(7/26-7/27) *Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (selections)

Optional supplement: Stanford Encyclopedia - [Libertarianism](#)

5. Public Choice Theory

Economic principles and political processes

(7/28) *James Buchanan, *Politics without Romance*

Pierre Lemieux, [The Vacuity of the Political 'We'](#)

Rationality, ignorance and rational ignorance

(7/28) *Anthony Downs, *An Economic Theory of Democracy*

(7/31) *Michael Huemer, *Why People are Irrational about Politics*

The ethics of voting

(8/1) *Geoff Brennan and Loren Lomasky, *Is There a Duty to Vote?*

(8/2) *Jason Brennan, *Polluting the Polls: When Citizens Should Not Vote*

(8/2) **PAPER – Midterm 2 Due** at 11:59PM

6. Liberty and Paternalism

(8/3) *J. S. Mill, *On Liberty*

(8/4) *Gerald Dworkin, *Paternalism*

(8/4) **Final Exam will be passed out**

(8/7) Robert P. George, *The Concept of Public Morality*

Optional Supplement: Robert P. George, *Making Men Moral* (selections)

7. Markets in Everything

Drugs

(8/8) *Michael Huemer, *America's Unjust Drug War*

*Peter DeMarneffe, *Against the Legalization of Drugs*

(8/9) *Jeffrey Miron, *The Economics of Drug Legalization and Prohibition*

Body Parts

(8/9) *Arthur Caplan, *Organ Transplantation*

(8/10) *Gerald Dworkin, *Of Markets and Morals: The Case for Organ Sales*

(8/12) **EXAM – Final Exam Due** at 11:59PM