



UNC  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

### The Philosophy, Politics, & Economics Program

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**Instructor:** Professor Barry Maguire ([maguirbj@email.unc.edu](mailto:maguirbj@email.unc.edu))

**Classes:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:35 – 4:50 p.m. in BI 101 or 5:45 – 7:00 p.m. in CW 105

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 4.50 – 5.45, and by appointment

**Course Description:** How should one make choices in a market context? Do markets inculcate vices? Virtues? What range of motivations are compatible with market transactions in contemporary capitalist society? What is the broader relationship between the ethics of individual actions in larger social structures, in particular oppressive structures? Are there any goods that should not or could not be distributed in a market? Sex? Votes? Organs? Friendship? How do these questions relate to broader questions about distributive justice? What is the relationship between distributive justice and the equal distribution of different goods? What tensions exist between markets and distributive justice? The central texts will be Elizabeth Anderson's *Value in Ethics and Economics* and drafts of T.M. Scanlon's as-yet-untitled book on inequality.

**Prerequisites:** An inquisitive mind, a keen wit, a powerful desire to fight for a better day.

**Recommended:** at least 1 PHIL ethics course (PHIL 160, 163, or 170) or 1 ECON course.

**Evaluation:** There will be two short essays and one longer essay. These will be designed to train you to write about complex issues clearly and compellingly. The first essay (3 pages) will be worth 20% of your grade; the second (5 pages) will be worth 30%; the third essay (5-7 pages) will be worth 35%. Writing advice online here: [www.barrymaguire.com/teaching](http://www.barrymaguire.com/teaching). I reserve the right to add writing assignments and quizzes; these will not affect your grade. A further 5% of your grade is available for those who attend at least two PPE talks over the semester and ask at least one question during those talks. If you cannot attend at least two PPE talks (e.g. if you work in the evenings) let me know and I'll offer an alternative way to make up the grade. The remaining 10% of your grade is for your participation in class. There will be plenty of opportunities for questions and discussion based on the reading and lectures.

**Submission:** Submit your essays in .docx (preferred) or .pdf to [ppesubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:ppesubmissions@gmail.com) by 11.59pm on the due date. Late fees (10% deduction per day) will accrue to essays late, unreadable, not properly uploaded, etc.

**Attendance:** You will lose 5% of your grade if you miss more than one class without a formal explanation (e.g. note from your doctor saying that your leg broke). If you arrive more than ten minutes late for class, or leave more than ten minutes early, without a formal explanation, that counts as missing the class.

**Electronics Policy:** Phones and Laptops are forbidden in class without specific permission.

**Email:** Be professional. Do not ask anything you can find out without asking. Keep your questions brief and accept my apologies in advance for terse replies. Please send a short follow-up email if you do not receive a reply within two business days. Perhaps google the essay: "How to Email Your Professor (without being annoying)."

**Honor Code:** All students are expected to abide by the honor code: <http://studentconduct.unc.edu/students/rights-responsibilities>. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. It is in your interest to keep a careful record of any resources you use in research and writing. Always cite any resource that you use. Do not re-use papers written for past classes.

**Texts:** Apart from *Anderson, Value in Ethics and Economics* (VEE), all are available online (e.g. jstor.org) or in the library or on the course website. Do not email me for readings if you can find them yourself. Do if you can't.

**Reading:** Everything on this syllabus has been carefully chosen. Read each piece a few times. Read once, quickly, to get the structure of the argument, the main claims, and the conclusion(s). Read a second time to study the argument more carefully, to formulate the argument in your own words, to think up your own examples to illustrate the main claims, and to think of counterexamples to these claims. Read a third time to soak up any remaining details. Some excellent reading advice can be found online here: [www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading](http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading)

Date		Topic	Reading (subject to change)
<b><u>Unit One: Arguments</u></b>			
24-Aug		Argument Practice	Selections from magazines on ethics of markets.
29-Aug		Argument Practice	Heath et al, 'Business Ethics and (or as) Political Philosophy
31-Aug	Professor Brown	Argument Practice	Jay Rosenberg, The Practice of Philosophy
5-Sep	<b>Labour Day Holiday</b>		
7-Sep	Professor Sebo	Effective Altruism	Amia Srinivasan, The Robot Apocalypse
12-Sep	Professor Sebo	Consequentialism	Julia Driver, Consequentialism
14-Sep		Deontology	G.E.M. Anscombe, 'Mr Truman's Degree'
<b><u>Unit Two: Markets</u></b>			
19-Sep		Division of Labour	Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations, 1-3
21-Sep		Free Markets	Friedrich Hayek, 'The Use of Knowledge in Society'
26-Sep		Free Markets	Ludwig von Mises, 'On Profit and Loss'
28-Sep		Alienation	Marx, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts
3-Oct	<b>First Paper Due</b>	Exploitation	Olin Wright, 'What's So Bad About Capitalism?'
<b><u>Unit Three: Market Ethics</u></b>			
5-Oct		Ethics of Markets	Elizabeth Anderson, VEE, Chapter 3
10-Oct		Ethics of Markets	Anderson, VEE, Chapter 6
12-Oct		Ethics of Markets	Anderson, VEE, Chapter 7
17-Oct		Ethics of Markets	Anderson, VEE, Chapter 8
19-Oct	<b>Fall Break Holiday</b>		
24-Oct	<b>Second Paper Due</b>	Markets in Bodily Services	Jessica Flanigan, 'Inequality & Markets in Bodily Services'
26-Oct		Market Semiotics?	Brennan & Jaworski, 'Markets without Symbolic Limits'
31-Oct		Ethical Limits?	Brown & Maguire, 'Markets and their Limits'
2-Nov		Ethical Selling?	Waheed Hussain, 'Corporations, Profit Maximisation,...'
7-Nov		Ethical Buying?	Waheed Hussain, 'Is Ethical Consumerism ...Vigilantism'
9-Nov			<i>Recap</i>
<b><u>Unit Four: Inequality</u></b>			
14-Nov		Equality	T.M.Scanlon, <i>Inequality</i> , Chapter One
16-Nov		Equality	Scanlon Chapter Two
21-Nov		Equality	Scanlon Chapter Three
23-Nov	<b>T'giving Holiday</b>		
28-Nov		Equality	Scanlon Chapter Four
30-Nov		Equality	Scanlon Chapter Five
5-Dec		Equality	Scanlon Chapter Six
7-Dec		Equality	Scanlon Chapter Seven
9-Dec	<b>Final Paper Due</b>		<i>Recap</i>