

Introduction to Philosophy, Politics & Economics (UNC) Prisoner's Dilemma & Distributive Justice (Duke)



Professors:

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Meetings:

Mondays (@Duke, Gray 228) & Wednesdays (@UNC, Caldwell 105)

Times:

Section 1: 3:05PM–4:20PM / Section 2: 4:40PM–5:55PM
Office Hours by Appointment

This **DRAFT syllabus is version 1/13/16. It is subject to change without notice.
Always check the on-line version (Duke Sakai) for the currently valid one.**

Duke: Philosophy 246.05 / Political Science 331.05 / Economics 361.05

Spring 2016

[Skip ahead to readings & lecture schedule](#)

INTRODUCTION

This interdisciplinary course presents and examines intersecting theories and agendas of moral philosophy, political science, and neo-classical economics (PP&E). Our aim is to show how and why these three disciplines are indispensable to addressing and answering the factual and normative questions posed by each. We use a variety of methods – historical, logical, textual and formal (wherein game theory is an important tool in our study of social choice and institutions). We examine problems of *economic* coordination, efficiency, and power, including how *markets* succeed or fail and what to do about it. We also explore the challenges of coordination, cooperation, and decision-making in groups of various size and type, of justifications for *political* authority (both in origin and domain), including how *states* succeed or fail and what to do about it. We also address theories of public goods, public choice and the roots of public policy. Finally, we investigate the moral-economic-political aspects of distributive justice, desert theory, and redistribution.

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ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE WEIGHTS

- **Paper (30% of final grade):** You will write *one* paper, 10-12 typed pages long, double-spaced (or no more than 3,000 words long, whichever is shorter). Topic: *distributive justice*. Due on Wed., April 27th (end of class). Each student must present to the instructors an *outline* of proposed work (details to be provided in class) by Wed., February 24 (end of class). A paper not submitted on time is late and loses a letter grade for each calendar day that it is late. Early discussion with the instructor, on topics and approaches, is welcomed.
- **Midterm Exam (30% of final grade):** Partly multiple choice and partly short-answer essay questions, March 9.
- **3 Quizzes (30% of final grade):** On rational choice (January 27), strategic choice (February 15), and analytical politics (March 30). Format: all multiple choice questions.
- **Class Participation (10% of final grade):** Read the assignments *in advance*. Ask probing *questions*. Make thoughtful *criticisms*. Engage others *intellectually*. Here, silence is *not* golden.

TEXTBOOKS & READINGS

Two Books (access to which is required):

Title: ***Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology***
Authors/Editors: J. Anomaly, G. Brennan, M. Munger, and G. Sayre-McCord.
Publisher: Oxford University Press, 2015
ISBN-13: 978-0190207311

Title: ***On Philosophy, Politics, and Economics***
Author: G. Gaus
Publisher: Cengage Learning, 2008
ISBN-13: 978-0495008989

In addition, shorter readings are available on the web—in many cases by merely clicking on the links embedded in the *on-line version of this syllabus* which will bring your browser to a pdf or html version of the text, or by search www.jstor.org, or by checking class resources in Sakai. In the case of both the books and the reserve readings, the last name(s) of the author(s) constitute(s) a unique identifier.

LINKS TO RESOURCES (Duke)

- Duke PPE Program: <http://sites.duke.edu/dukeppe/>
- Duke Citations Practices: <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/>
- Duke's Community Standard: <http://integrity.duke.edu/new.html>
- Holes, First Rule of: Stop digging, and get some help: <http://www.studentaffairs.duke.edu/caps>
- Illness / Excused Absences: <http://trinity.duke.edu/academic-requirements?p=policy-short-term-illness-notification>
- Plagiarism Defined (and Avoided): <https://plagiarism.duke.edu/>
- Help in writing better: <http://uwp.duke.edu/writing-studio>

LINKS TO RESOURCES (UNC)

- UNC PPE Program: <http://ppe.unc.edu/>
- Plagiarism: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/plagiarism/>
- Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/>
- Absence: <https://deanofstudents.unc.edu/faculty-staff/student-class-absence-notifications>
- Student Affairs: <https://studentaffairs.unc.edu/>
- Safe Zone, this is a: <https://lgbtq.unc.edu/programs-services/safe-zone>

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Attendance: You will lose 5% of your grade if you miss more than one class without a formal explanation. 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 not allowed in class without explicit permission.

Email: Please be professional. Do not ask anything you can find out without asking. Keep your questions brief and accept our apologies in advance for terse replies. Please send a short follow-up email if you do not receive a reply within two business days.

TOPICS & READINGS

Note: subject to change, with notice by e-mail.

1. Rational Choice

Jan. 13 (W), 20 (W), 25 (M), 27 (W)

Professor Maguire

Topics:

- PPE and Effective Altruism
- Expected Utility
- Commitments
- Heuristics and Biases

Readings:

- For 13 Jan:
Herzog, “[One of Effective Altruism’s Blind Spots; or: Why Moral theory Needs Institutional Theory](#)” (2015)
Srinivasan, “[Stop the Robotic Apocalypse – Review of MacAskill’s Doing Good Better](#)” (2015)
Brennan, “PPE: An Institutional View” (*Journal of Politics, Philosophy & Economics*, 2010).
- For 20 Jan: Frank Jackson, “Decision-Theoretic Consequentialism and the Nearest and Dearest Objection” (jstor)
- For 25 Jan: Warren Quinn, “The Puzzle of the Self-Torturer” (jstor); (optional: Kavka, “The Toxin Puzzle” (in reader))
- For 27 Jan: Kahneman, “Thinking Fast and Slow, elections”

2. Strategic Choice

Feb. 1 (M), 3 (W), 8 (M), 10 (W), 15 (M)

Professor Salsman

Topics:

- Choosing in Groups & Voting (Feb 1 & 3)
- Game Theory I [Basics] (Feb 8)
- Game Theory II [PD] (Feb 10)
- Game Theory III [Non-PD Games] (Feb 15)
- Game Theory IV [Applied] (Feb 15)

Readings:

- For 1 Feb & 3 Feb:
 - Olson, M. (1965). *The Logic of Collective Action* (excerpt). In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 236-240.
 - Gauthier, D. (1986). "Rationality: Maximization Constrained." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 56-69.
 - Gaus. (2008). *On Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*, Chapters 1, 2 & 5.
 - Munger & Munger (2015). *Choosing in Groups*, Chapters 2, 3 & 4.
- For 8 Feb:
 - Ross, D. (2014). "[Game Theory](#)." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
 - Gaus. (2008). *On Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*, Chapter 4.
 - Morris, C. and Verbeek, B. (2010). "[Game Theory and Ethics](#)." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
 - Blackburn, S. (1998). "Game Theory and Rational Choice." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 78-88.
 - Bowles, S. and Gintis, H. (2004). "The Evolutionary Basis of Collective Action." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 271-282.
- For 10 Feb:
 - Kuhn, S. (2014). "[Prisoner's Dilemma](#)." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
 - Axelrod, R. (1980). "Effective Choice in the Prisoner's Dilemma." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 24 (1), pp. 3-25.
 - Axelrod, R. (1981). "The Emergence of Cooperation Among Egoists." *American Political Science Review* 75 (2), pp. 306-318
- For 15 Feb:
 - Hampton, J. (1987). "Free Rider Problems in the Production of Collective Goods." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 241-255.
 - Brennan, J. & Tullock, G. (1982). "An Economic Theory of Military Tactics: Methodological Individualism at War." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 116-128.
 - Schelling, T. (1978). "Dynamic Models of Segregation." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 89-97.
 - Mackie, G. (1996). "Ending Foot-Binding & Infibulation: A Convention Account." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 97-116.

3. Models & Methods

Feb. 17 (W), 22 (M), 24 (W)

Professor Maguire

Topics:

- Epistemology
- Economic Models
- Methodological Individualism

Readings:

- For 17 Feb: Margaret Little – "The Role of Affect in Moral Epistemology"
- For 22 Feb: Mary Morgan – "Economic Man as Model Man"
- For 24 Feb: Philip Pettit – "The Common Good"

4. Analytical Economics

Feb. 29 (M), Mar. 2 (W), Mar. 7 (M)

Professor Salsman

Topics:

- Spontaneous Order v. Deliberate Design (Feb. 29)
- Nature of Property, Prices & Profits (Mar. 2)
- Market Success & Failure (Mar. 7)
- Capitalism, Socialism & Hybrid Systems (Mar. 7)

Readings:

- For 29 Feb:
 - Hamilton. A. (1787-1788). [Federalist Paper #1](#) (Oct. 1787) and [Federalist Paper #85](#) (Aug. 1788).
 - Barry, N. (1982). "[The Tradition of Spontaneous Order](#)"
 - Ullmann-Margalit, E. (1978). "[Invisible Hand Explanations](#)." *Synthese*, pp. 263-291.
 - Norton, R. (2008). "[Unintended Consequences](#)" (*Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*)
- For 2 Mar:
 - Say, J.B. (1803). "[Of the Right of Property](#)" (Book I, Chapter XIV) and "[Of the Basis of Value & of Supply & Demand](#)" (Book II, Chapter I) in *A Treatise on Political Economy*.
 - Smith, A. (1776). "Of the Division of Labor" (from *An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*). In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 164-172.
 - Locke, J. (1695). "Venditio" (**Sakai reading**)
 - Hayek, F.A. (1945). "The Use of Knowledge in Society." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 172-177.
 - Munger, M. (2011) "Euvoluntary or Not, Exchange is Just." *Social Philosophy & Policy*, pp.192-211 (**Sakai reading**)
- For 7 Mar:
 - "[Perfect Competition](#)." Economics Online.
 - Richmond, S. (2013). "[The Myth of Market Failure](#)"
 - Carden, A. and Horwitz, S. (2013). "[Is Market Failure a Sufficient Condition for Government Intervention?](#)"
 - Rand, R. (1957). "[The Story of the Twentieth Century Motor Company](#)"
 - Salsman, R. (2011). "[Capitalism Isn't Corporatism or Cronyism](#)"

March 9 (W): Midterm Exam (in class). NOTE: If you know *now* that you cannot attend this midterm, let us know immediately. **Only medical excuses will be accepted after January 27th.**

Spring BREAK: March 11-20—No classes March 14 & 16

5. Analytical Politics

Mar. 21 (M), 23 (W), 28 (M), 30 (W)

Professor Salsman

Topics:

- Median Voter Theorem & Spatial Analysis (Mar. 21)
- Democracy: Pros & Cons (Mar. 23)
- Public Choice & Domain of Government (Mar. 28)
- Government Success & Failure (Mar. 30)

Readings:

- For 21 Mar:

- Thomas, D. (2013). "Why Do Politicians All Sound the Same? The Median Voter Theorem" (3 minute [video](#)).
- Munger, M. (2015). "Politics as Spatial Competition," Chapter 5 in *Choosing in Groups* (pp. 83-104).
- Munger, M. (2015). "Two Dimensions: Elusive Equilibrium," Chapter 6 in *Choosing in Groups* (pp. 105-134).
- For 23 Mar:
 - Downs, A. (1957). "An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy," pp. 435-449.
 - Brennan, G. and Lomasky, L. (2000). "Is There a Duty to Vote?" In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 470-487.
 - Brennan, J. (2009). "Polluting the Polls: When Citizens Should Not Vote." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 487-491.
 - Huemer, M. (2015). "Why People are Irrational about Politics." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 456-467.
 - Munger, M. (2015). "[Every Flaw in Consumers is Worse in Voters.](#)"
 - Munger, M. (2005). "[Democracy is a Means, Not an End.](#)"
- For 28 Mar:
 - Buchanan, J. (2003). "Public Choice: Politics Without Romance." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 431-435.
 - Munger, M. (2006). "Rent Seek and You Will Find." In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 449-452.
 - Buchanan, J. (1993). "How Can Constitutions be Designed so that Politicians Who Seek to Serve the Public Interest Can Survive and Prosper?" In Anomaly et al, *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics: An Anthology*, pp. 453-456.
- For 30 Mar:
 - Keech, W. and Munger, M. (2015). "The Anatomy of Government Failure," *Public Choice* (**Sakai reading**)

6. Distributive Justice

Apr. 4 (M), 6 (W), 11 (M), 13 (W), 18 (M), 20 (W), 25 (M)

Professors Maguire & Salsman

Topics:

- For 6 Apr: Hobbes on Authority (Maguire)
- For 11 Apr: Libertarianism / Property, Rights & the State (Locke/Nozick/Schmidtz) (Salsman)
- For 13 Apr: Hume on Property (Maguire)
- For 18 Apr: Marx on Justice (Maguire)
- For 20 Apr: Liberalism (Maguire)
- For 25 Apr: Socialism (Maguire)
- For 27 Apr: Price Gouging (Maguire / Salsman)

Readings:

- Hobbes in reader
- Locke, Nozick, Schmitz in reader
- Hume in reader
- Marx, Critique of the Gotha Programme, Communist Manifesto (selections)
- Rawls in reader
- Cohen, Why Not Socialism (class resources)
- Price Gouging (in reader)

April 27 (W): Course Summary & Due Date for Paper on Distributive Justice