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“Office hours” for both: by appointment (via email)

Seminar – Markets: Perspectives from Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Summer Semester 2020

Due to the corona pandemic, the seminar will be held online, from the week starting on the **20.04.2020**.

Important: Please read this document **carefully and in full**, to make sure you understand how the course will operate, and what you will need to do. Your Stud.IP account needs to be linked to an **email account that you check regularly**, so you can keep track of all announcements and updates. Any necessary material for the classes will be made available to you via Stud.IP.

Course Description

What are the moral limits of markets? What do markets do well, and where do they create problems? How should markets be designed or regulated, and when might they be prohibited? In this seminar, we will look at a variety of areas where markets are controversial. We will become familiar with and critically evaluate various problems that are argued to arise in a range of contexts, and assess how these problems might best be solved, through regulation, market design, or through banning the market in certain spheres. We will also look at specific places in which market mechanisms might be able to offer us solutions to existing societal problems. We will ground all of this in some theoretical explication from philosophy and political economy concerning the purpose and limit of markets.

Objectives

- Become familiar with some of the main philosophical arguments for and against markets.
- Develop the ability to critically assess these arguments, and identify the pros and cons of markets in various spheres.
- Develop the ability to express and critically analyse your own views on markets and commodification.
- Enhance ability to engage with philosophical debate in English (in particular, development of the ability to engage in written philosophy).

Course Schedule

Subject to revision

***Please see "course requirements" below for important dates within the week (videos released, responses due, etc.).**

Session	Week*	Topic and Readings
1 (LW)	20.04.20 – 24.04.20	Introduction M. Sandel, "What isn't for sale?" (<i>Background reading</i>) https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/04/what-isnt-for-sale/308902/
2 (LW)	27.04.20 – 01.05.20	Rights, Freedom and the Market A. Buchanan, <i>Ethics, Efficiency, and the Market</i> (pp.64-78, pp.21-25)
3 (LW)	04.05.20 – 08.05.20	Corporate Responsibility M. Friedman, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits" W. Evan and R. Freeman, "A Stakeholder Theory of the Modern Corporation: Kantian Capitalism"
4 (LW)	11.05.20 – 15.05.20	Markets and Value E. Anderson, "The Ethical Limitations of the Market"
5 (LW)	18.05.20 – 22.05.20	Case Study: From Human Blood to Social Policy R. Titmuss, "Why Give to Strangers?" D. Archard, "Selling Yourself: Titmuss's Arguments against a Market in Blood"
6 (LW)	25.05.20 – 29.05.20	Constraints on Markets A. Roth, "Repugnance as a Constraint on Markets"
		mid-semester break
7 (PvB)	08.06.20 – 12.06.20	Market Design: Ethical Foundations S. Li, "Ethics and Market Design"
8 (PvB)	15.06.20 – 19.06.20	Markets without Borders: From Asylum to Democracy E. Posner and G. Weyl, <i>Radical Markets</i> (Chapter 2, "Radical Democracy", pp. 80-126) OR J. Himmelreich, "Asylum for Sale: A Market between States that is Feasible and Desirable"

9 (PvB)	22.06.20 – 26.06.20	Markets and Virtue Ethics L. Bruni and R. Sugden, “Reclaiming Virtue Ethics for Economics”
10 (PvB)	29.06.20 – 03.07.20	Case Study: Allocation of Emergency Health Care in the COVID-19 Pandemic Cramton et al., “Borrow crisis tactics to get COVID-19 supplies to where they are needed” Optional: Pathak et al., “Triage Protocol Design for Ventilator Rationing in a Pandemic: Integrating Multiple Ethical Values through Reserves” (Sections 1, 2, and 4)
11 (PvB)	06.07.20 – 10.07.20	Exploitation and Coercion G. Dworkin, “Markets and Morals: The Case for Organ Sales” P. Hughes, “Exploitation, Autonomy, and the Case for Organ Sales”
12 (PvB)	13.07.20 – 17.07.20	Non-Market Alternatives R. Munson, “Organ Transplantation” (pp.216-19) D. Steinberg, “Kidneys and The Kindness of Strangers” J. Harris, “The Survival Lottery”

Readings

Rather than focusing on one main text, we will explore the various issues here through a range of articles from different sources. All readings will be posted on Stud IP.

Course Requirements

The normal coursework (**Studienleistung**) consists of the following:

1. Read the scheduled material, and set aside some time to look into any concepts or terms that you don't understand, and to think about the issues raised.
2. By **Tuesday, 5pm**: post *one discussion question* about the reading on the StudIP forum for this course (<https://studip.uni-hannover.de/plugins.php/coreforum/index?cid=bd7501123588196ca357e039c7f96883>). Your questions should demonstrate that you have read and thought about the week's readings, and should be aimed at stimulating interesting discussion about the topic – that means no yes or no questions.
3. Watch the weekly video from the instructors (posted on **Wednesdays**).
4. By **Friday, 5pm**: post a *response to one of the questions* on the StudIP Forum. The aim here, again, is to contribute to and stimulate further discussion.

You need to contribute **at least one** question **and** response to the forum for **at least 9** out of the **11** sessions (starting from week 2). But, we strongly encourage you to go above and beyond this, and post as many questions and engage in as much discussion in the forums as you can! The most crucial part of philosophy is to discuss your ideas with others. This is what will make you into a better philosopher. As we won't get to do this in person this semester, the forum will be the most important way for us to engage with each other.

All this is to say:

- *Please help to make this course a success by sharing your thoughts on the forums!*
- *Also, please make sure, in all your dealings with others, particularly on the forum, to remain courteous and constructive!*

5. **In addition**, you must write *one* essay (1500 words) dealing with a topic covered in the course. This will be due on the **22.07.2020**. For an essay of this length, you should reference *at least* 3 sources (this means you will need to read more than this, because some of the things you read will not find their way into the essay).

We will post a list of essay topics/questions on Stud.IP by the 19.06.2020. You are free to craft your own question for this essay, but you must run it past us before you start writing. If you want suggestions or assistance with this, please contact one of us.

Your essay should correspond to the following guidelines (that means **please read them** well in advance of writing your essay – you are unlikely to do well in your essay if you have not read them):

- J. Pryor, "Guidelines on writing a philosophy essay"
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>
- R. Sparrow, "19 things to avoid in philosophy essays..." (on Stud IP)
- B. Earp, "Some writing tips for philosophy" (on Stud.IP)

An examination (**Prüfungsleistung**) consists of, in addition to the normal coursework: A term paper of 3000 words, due on the **31.08.2020**. You should devise your own essay question/topic for this essay, but you need to run it past at least one of us before you start writing. We also highly recommend that you talk to one of us about your PL essay well before it is due, either by sending a short outline (of about a page) to us via email, or scheduling an online meeting, or both. If you have any questions or want to discuss anything to do with the essay, please get in touch – that's what we're here for!

Important: Your term paper should focus on a topic that you did not focus on in the Studienleistung assessment. If you have any questions about this, please let one of us know! Your essay will be graded on the basis of how well it corresponds to the guidelines listed above. For an essay of this length, you should reference *at least* 6 sources.

Tips for essays

Make sure that you properly cite and reference all material that you use in the essay. We recommend the following style of citation:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

You are free to use another style if you prefer, but make sure you stick to the guidelines for your chosen style, remain consistent, and include all the necessary details for any reference.

Plagiarism is taken very seriously - it will result in an automatic fail, and may need to be reported to the university. Avoid plagiarism at all costs! Here is a guide to help you do this:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/applying-to-oxford/university-policies/plagiarism?wssl=1>

If in doubt about anything to do with plagiarism, please contact us – even accidental plagiarism will result in a failing grade.

Tips for online research

Although the TIB (university library) is due to resume some services soon (including borrowing), this may change again at short notice. Luckily, the TIB provides access to many online resources, which you can search for here: <https://www.tib.eu/en/>

The TIB offers many resources for students who are trying to do research online, including daily webinars, see their website for details.

You can sometimes gain access to these resources by entering the details from your library card, however, accessing this material works best if you use the VPN client – you can find out how to download it here: https://www.luis.uni-hannover.de/netz_vpn.html?&L=1

As well as providing easy access to material you find through the library catalogue, the VPN client also allows you to search philosophy databases like <https://philpapers.org/> or academic databases like <https://scholar.google.com> and automatically access the papers that the university has a subscription for.

Please note that no late submissions (without a pre-arranged extension) will be accepted!

If you have any questions that are not covered here, please get in touch with us!