

GOV 20.xxx
Markets and Their Critics
11 (MWF 11:30-12:35) (X-hour: T 12:15-1:05)
Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30 and by appointment

S 22
Dr. Clark
Location: xxx
Office: Silsby 107

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to explore the nature and implications of the market primarily as a political, but also as a social, economic and even moral phenomenon. From being a marginal, controlled, and secondary social institution in most early societies, markets have risen to become a central mode of social coordination and economic production, distribution and exchange in modern ones throughout the Western and non-Western world. What is the best way of thinking about this transformation in the prominence of the market in human life? Why has it happened, whom has it benefited, whom has it harmed, what functions has it served, what new problems has it created, and what if anything are the limits on the social utility of markets?

These questions have reverberated down the centuries, and the answers have varied over time and place. This course will provide a rich interdisciplinary introduction to some of the most important practical and theoretical benchmarks, past and present.

COURSE GOAL: By a close study of some of the defining moments in the discovery, invention, and spread of markets, this course will introduce students to one of the signature institutions of human life and especially of modern life. What is the role of markets, functioning through law and social practice, in fostering the flourishing of human societies?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course, students will be better able to examine the relationship between markets on the one hand and the key arenas that constrain them—political, social, cultural, economic, and moral—on the other.

GRADING:

Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Examination:	30%
Term Paper	25%
Class Participation:	25%

The midterm examination will consist of essay questions drawn from a pool that will be made available on Canvas in advance. The final examination will be partly cumulative and will also be based on a pool of essays posted ahead of time on Canvas.

The class participation part of the grade will consist of the following elements: coming to class regularly (7.5%), showing evidence of having attentively read the assigned material regularly (7.5%), listening carefully and responding thoughtfully to

what is said by the instructor and the other students (7.5%), and offering serious and reflective comments on a regular basis (7.5%).

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Since this course is a (largish) seminar, students should be present and accounted for at each class meeting. I will take attendance each day, and for each absence beyond the fourth (4th), I reserve the right to reduce the student's grade under the aforementioned "class participation" rubric.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY: All laptops, cellphones, tablets, and other technology aids must be off and stowed away at all times during class. Violations of this policy will count against the "Class Participation" portion of the final grade.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PART 1: WHAT IS A "MARKET"?

Week 1: Mar. 26---Introduction and Orientation
 Mar. 28--- Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, I.i-ii, iii.1,7-8, iv.1, pp 13-30, 31, 35-37
 Mar. 30--- Marx and Engels, "The Communist Manifesto," intro and part 1-2, "Bourgeois and Proletarians," "Proletarians, and Communists", 8-32 (Crofts) "Critique of the Gotha Program," part one, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

PART 2: MARKETS IN CLASSICAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Week 2: Apr. 2--- Mauss and Simmel (Bastiat, "On What is Seen and What is Unseen" (1850), chs. 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, in Canvas (<http://www.econlib.org/library/Bastiat/basEss1.html>)
 Apr. 4--- Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, chs 3-6 (33-76) and/or chs 14-16 (163-200) (or: EPThompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century" [1971]
 Apr. 6--- Thompson, con't

Week 3: Apr. 9--- Henry C. Clark, "Formal Trade: Fairs and Markets," and/or "Informal Trade: The Moral Economy of Peddling," ch 5 or ch 6 of *The Moral Economy We Have Lost* (or: "Food Rioters as Moral Guardians?", ch 1 of *ibid*)

PART 3: MARKETS AS SITES OF CONTESTATION

Apr. 11--- The War vs Markets: 1917 ff (The Case of Asia), Bradley Gardner, *The Great Migration: How the Poor Made China Prosperous* (Oakland: Independent Institute, 2017), passim; Frank Dikotter, *The Cultural Revolution: A People's History, 1962-1976* (2016), 224-25; Adam Frost, "The Disciplinary Role of

Market Prices: A Hayekian Critique of Chinese Socialist Governance,” in *Exploring the Political Economy and Social Philosophy of F.A. Hayek*, ed. Peter J. Boettke, Jayme S. Lemke, and Virgil Henry Storr (2018), 13-34, and Hyung-min Joo, “Visualizing the invisible hands: The shadow economy in North Korea,” *Economy and Society*, 39, no. 1 (Feb. 2010):110-45

Apr. 13--- Markets from Below: Hernando De Soto, *The Other Path: The Invisible Revolution in the Third World* (1989), 59-91, and others

Week 4: Apr. 16--- [Markets and Their Critics—as Simultaneous Processes: R.A. Radford, “The Economic Organization of a Prisoner of War Camp,” *Economica* (Nov. 1945):189-201—delete?]

Apr. 18--- Markets and Social Prejudice: Thomas Sowell, “Are the Jews Generic?,” in *Black Rednecks and White Liberals* (Encounter, 2005), 65-110

Apr. 20--- MIDTERM EXAMINATION

PART 4: THE MODERN DEBATE OVER MARKETS: ITS LIMITS AND CONSEQUENCES

Week 5: Apr. 23--- Michael J. Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets* (2012), Introduction and ch 1, 3-41

Apr. 25--- Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy*, chs 2-3, 43-130

Apr. 27--- Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy*, chs 4-5, 131-203

Week 6: Apr. 30--- Jason Brennan and Peter Jaworski, *Markets Without Limits: Moral Virtues and Commercial Interests* (2016), pt 1, “Should everything be for sale?”

May 2--- Brennan and Jaworski, *Markets Without Limits*, pt 2, “Do markets signal disrespect?”

May 4--- Brennan and Jaworski, *Markets Without Limits*, pt 3, “Do markets corrupt?”

Week 7 May 7--- Brennan and Jaworski, *Markets Without Limits*, pt 5, “Debunking intuitions”

May 9--- Markets in Sweatshops: Matthew Coakley and Michael Kates, “The Ethical and Economic Case for Sweatshop Regulation,” in *Ibid*, 631-37; Benjamin Powell and Matt Zwolinski, “The Ethical and Economic Case Against Sweatshop Labor: A Critical Assessment,” in *Ibid*, 618-30

May 11--- Markets and Price Gouging: Michael Munger, “They Clapped: Can Price-Gouging Laws Prohibit Scarcity?,” in *Ibid*, 638-41; Jeremy Snyder, “What’s the Matter with Price Gouging?,” in *Ibid*, 642-55; Matt Zwolinski, “Price-Gouging, Non-Worseness, and Distributive Justice,” in *Ibid*, 656 ff.

Week 8 May 14--- Market Effects on Morality in Simple Societies: Jean Ensminger, “Market Integration and Fairness: Evidence from Ultimatum, Dictator, and

Public Goods Experiments in East Africa,” in Joseph Henrich et al, eds., *Foundations of Human Sociality: Economic Experiments and Ethnographic Evidence from Fifteen Small-Scale Societies* (2005), 356-81; Joseph Henrich et al, “Markets, Religion, Community Size, and the Evolution of Fairness and Punishment,” *Science* 327, no. 5972 (Mar. 19, 2010):1480-84

May 16--- Market Effects on Morality in Complex Societies: The Case of East and West Germany: Dan Ariely, “The Impact of two different economic systems on dishonesty,” *European Journal of Political Economy*, 59 (Sept. [2019](#)): 179-95

May 18--- PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Week 9 May 21--- PAPER PRESENTATIONS
 May 23--- PAPER PRESENTATIONS
 May 25--- PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Week 10 May 28---NO CLASSES (MEMORIAL DAY)
 May 30--- FINAL EXAMINATION REVIEW

Final Examination: TBD

Required Books:

Michael J. Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets* ([2012](#))
 Jason Brennan and Peter Jaworski, *Markets Without Limits: Moral Virtues and Commercial Interests* ([2016](#))