

**Governments, Morals and Markets: Topics in Comparative Public Policy
Gov 3420**

Henry Laurence

Mon/Wed 2.30-4.00

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays 2-4 or by appointment.

Course Description

Studies the relationship between governments and markets in policy areas such as health care, social welfare, education, media and the environment. Explores the moral and political dimensions of policy questions such as: What should or should not be for sale (e.g. drugs, healthcare, votes, pornography etc.) What justifies regulation of commercial activities? Under what circumstances, if any, should benefits such as flood insurance or tax breaks be provided with public funds? Should the government protect people from the consequences of their own choices? Cross-national case studies from the United Kingdom, USA, Japan and Europe.

Books Available for Purchase

Milton Friedman *Capitalism and Freedom* (U Chicago 1982)
JK Galbraith *A Short History of Financial Euphoria* Penguin 1990
Michael Sandel *What Money Can't Buy* (2012)

Recommended: Subscription to *The Economist*

Requirements

(+ Approximate weighting of final grade calculation)

Active participation in class discussions (30%). Beginning in week 2, two students per class will open by briefly presenting the readings and identifying key questions or topics for discussion.

3 short (2-3 pages or 650-800 word) **response papers** (at least 2 before Spring Break, all by end of week 10) (30%)

Make an argument on any aspect of any reading or discussion, or tie reading(s) to current events.

Research Paper 10-12 pages on any topic. (30%)

1-2 page prospectus due April 15th

Class Presentation/discussion of research topic (10%). This includes assigning reading and leading a 40-minute class discussion on your paper topic.

Jan 22 M Intro	
Jan 24 W Markets and Freedom	Milton Friedman <i>Capitalism and Freedom</i> Intro, Chs 1 and 2 * Adam Smith Inquiry p.40
Jan 29 M	Michael Sandel <i>What Money Can't Buy</i> Intro, Chs 1-3 [Michael Sandel "What's Not for Sale" <i>The Atlantic</i> April 2012] * Debra Satz <i>Why Some Things Should Not Be for Sale</i> (Oxford UP 2010) Ch 1 * Satz Ch 3 (Markets and Equality)
Jan 31 W	Friedman Chs 7 (Discrimination) 12 (Poverty) Srinivasan "Questions for Free-Market Moralists" NYT 10/20/13
Feb 5 M	* Charles Lindblom <i>The Market System</i> 2001 (Chs 4, 7, 18) (ebook) * Vogel Freer Markets Need More Rules * Polanyi Economic Sociology 117-119
Feb 7 W Collective Action Problems	* Elinor Ostrom "Governing the Commons" Ch 1
M Feb 12	* Baumol and Blinder "The Market Mechanism" Portland Press Herald "Long Drive for Car Repair" 2/4/13 Nbcnews.com "No Pay, No Spray" 10/6/2010 Should drug trial results be disclosed? http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/02/opinion/health-cares-trick-coin.html
W Feb 14	Peter Brown "The Failure of Market Failure" <i>Journal of Socio-Economics</i> Spring 1992

Feb 12 M Varieties of capitalism	<p>*Hall and Soskice <i>Varieties of Capitalism</i> Ch 1</p> <p>[* Wilensky Ch 1]</p> <p>[*Howard Friedman “<i>Measure of a Nation</i>” Ch 5 (Inequality)]</p>
Feb 14 W Welfare politics	<p>* Esping-Andersen “Three Worlds of Welfare”</p> <p>Pontusson “The American Welfare State in Comparative Perspective” Perspectives on Politics June 2006</p> <p>[* Alesina, Glaeser and Sacerdote “Why Doesn’t the US Have a Welfare State?”]</p>
Feb 19 M Sweden and Nordic Model of Social Policy	<p>The Economist Special Report on Nordic Countries “Northern Lights” 2/2/2013</p> <p>Neil Irwin “With Aid, More People Work” NYT 12/18/14</p> <p>[Stepan and Linz ‘Comparative Perspectives on Inequality’ <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> Dec 2011]</p> <p>[Tapio Salonen “Sweden” from Alcock and Craig (eds) <i>International Social Policy</i> (Palgrave, 2001)]</p>
Feb 21 W US social policy	<p>Suzanne Mettler “Reconstituting the Submerged State” <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> Sept 2010.</p> <p>[*Mettler <i>The Submerged State</i> (Chicago UP 2011) chs 1-2]</p> <p>[Lane Kenworthy “America’s Social Democratic Future” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Jan/Feb 2014</p>
Feb 26 M Healthcare	<p>Steinmo & Watts "It's the Institutions, Stupid!" <i>Journal of Health Politics</i> Summer 1995</p> <p>* Wilensky 5</p> <p>[Howard Friedman “The Measure of a Nation” (Prometheus 2012) Ch 1)]</p> <p>[TR Reid <i>Healing of America</i> Chs 2, 3]</p>

	The Commonwealth Fund – latest cross-national survey of healthcare. http://www.nytimes.com/imagepages/2008/10/16/health/20081016_INFANT_GRAPHIC.html
Feb 27 W Healthcare	Healthcare UK + Japan * Reid Abby Goodnough “Kentucky Health Plan Flooded” NYT 12/30/14
March 5 M	
March 7 W Public Health ? Opioid Crisis	
Opioid Crisis	Nicholas Kristoff “How to win the War on Drugs” <i>NYT</i> 9/22/2017 Christopher Ingraham “Why Hardly Anyone Dies from a Drug Overdose in Portugal” <i>Washington Post</i> 6/5/2015
Spring Break	
March 26 M	
March 28 W Bitcoin	Galbraith <i>Short History of Financial Euphoria</i>
4/2M Online Privacy	How the US and Europe differ on data protection/respecting privacy"? What do Friedman or Smith have to say about privacy? Is it an issue of property rights or a "non-market values" that Sandel talks about? Jeff Toobin “The Solace of Oblivion” <i>The New Yorker</i> 9/29/14 Christopher Wolf and Maxwell Winston “So Close Yet so Far Apart: EU and US visions of a New Privacy Framework” <i>Antitrust Magazine</i> 2012 http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/03/technology/consumer-data-protection-laws-an-ocean-apart.html?ref=todayspaper
4/4 W Net Neutrality	<i>The Weeds</i> 12/5/2017 Net Neutrality Explained Ben Thompson “Pro-Neutrality, Anti-Title II” <i>Stratechery</i> 11/2/2017 https://stratechery.com/2017/pro-neutrality-anti-title-ii/ Lix Alderman & Amie Tsang “Europe’s Lessons on Net Neutrality” NYT 12/11/2017
April 9 M Government Insurance	<i>Planet Money</i> #797 Flood Money (9/29/2017) http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/16/us/politics/record-taxpayer-cost-is-seen-for-crop-insurance.html

April 11 W	TBD
April 16 M	Presentations
April 18 W	Presentations
April 23 M	Presentations
April 25 W	Presentations
April 30 M	Presentations
May 2 W	Presentations
May 7 M	Presentations
May 9 W Last Class	Presentations