

Governments, Morals and Markets: Topics in Comparative Public Policy

Gov 3420

Henry Laurence

Spring 2020

Mon/Wed 2.50-4.15 Adams 202

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-3 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, and income inequality. 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? 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)

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) **papers.** (30%)

At least one by start of week 4, (Feb 17th)

At least two before Spring Break (March 6th)

Three by start of week 11 (April 20th)

The paper should take the form of an opinion piece, making an argument on any aspect of any reading or discussion. I will give out occasional reading questions, and these can be used as prompts.

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 W	Intro “Life Expectancy in America has Declined” <i>The Economist</i> Jan 4 th 2018
Week 1 The Moral Limits of Markets	
Jan 27 M	Michael Sandel <i>What Money Can't Buy</i> Intro, Chs 1-3 (Skim the cases, try to pick out the arguments). [<i>Planet Money</i> podcast #386 “The Cost of Free Donuts”] [Michael Sandel “What’s Not for Sale” <i>The Atlantic</i> April 2012] [NBCnews.com “No Pay, No Spray” 10/6/2010]
Jan 29 W	{e-book} Debra Satz <i>Why Some Things Should Not Be for Sale</i> (Oxford UP 2010) *Ch 3 (Summers’ memo and Titanic pp 83-89) and Ch 4 “Noxious Markets” (92-113)
Week 2 Neoliberalism	
Feb 3 M The moral case for markets	Milton Friedman <i>Capitalism and Freedom</i> Intro, Ch 1 *Debra Satz <i>Why Some Things Should Not Be for Sale</i> (Oxford UP 2010) Ch 1 pp 15-26 *Arthur Brooks <i>The Road to Freedom</i> Ch 1 “The Moral Case for Free Enterprise” Amia Srinivasan “Questions for Free-Market Moralists” <i>New York Times</i> 10/20/13
Feb 5 W Role of the state: market failure	* Friedman <i>Capitalism and Freedom</i> Chs 2, 10, 11 BB *Brooks <i>Road to Freedom</i> Ch 6 “The Government We Want” [* Adam Smith <i>Inquiry</i> p.40] [* Satz Ch 1 pp 26-end] [* Baumol and Blinder “The Market Mechanism”]
Week 3 Critiques of Neoliberalism	
Feb 10 M Criticisms of the market failure model	* Hacker and Pierson <i>American Amnesia</i> Ch 3 “The Trouble with Markets” (70-97)

	<p>Peter Brown “The Failure of Market Failure” <i>Journal of Socio-Economics</i> Spring 1992 – skim</p> <p>[Cases for discussion?] [<i>Portland Press Herald</i> “Long Drive for Car Repair” 2/4/13] [Should drug trial results be disclosed? http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/02/opinion/health-cares-trick-coin.html] [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/16/us/politics/record-taxpayer-cost-is-seen-for-crop-insurance.html] [<i>Planet Money</i> podcast #797 Flood Money (9/29/2017)]</p>
Feb 12 W Markets as political and economic institutions	<p>Steve Vogel <i>Marketcraft: How Governments Make Markets Work</i> (Oxford Scholarship online) (library ebook). Ch 1 “The Elements of Marketcraft” Mariana Mazzucato “The Innovative State” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Jan/Feb 2015</p> <p>[* Charles Lindblom <i>The Market System</i> 2001 Chs 4, 7, 18] [* Vogel “Freer Markets Need More Rules”]</p>
Week 4 The Neoliberal era	
Feb 17 M Prosperity lost?	<p>* Hacker and Pierson <i>American Amnesia</i> Intro + Ch 1 “Coming Up Short” (1-44) Jacob Hacker “The Great Risk Shift” <i>TalkingPointsMemo</i> 10/24/18</p> <p>[* Howard Friedman <i>Measure of a Nation</i> Ch 5 Inequality]</p>
Feb 19 W Neoliberalism, morality and justice	<p>Friedman Chs 7 “Capitalism and Discrimination” and 12 “Alleviation of Poverty”</p> <p>* Wendy Brown <i>In the Ruins of Neoliberalism</i> (Columbia University Press, 2019) Introduction + pp 62-67</p> <p>Darrick Hamilton “Neoliberalism and Race” <i>Democracy</i> 53 (Summer 2019)</p> <p>Brittney Cooper “Being a Black Woman in America Means Realizing that Doing Everything Right May not be Enough” <i>NBC:Think</i> May 15th 2018 <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/being-black-woman-america-means-realizing-doing-everything-right-may-ncna874171></p>

Week 5 Welfare in the US	
Feb 24 M The political causes of inequality	<p>Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson “Winner Take All Politics” <i>Politics and Society</i> 38(2) 2010, pp 152-204</p> <p>Steven Vogel “Elizabeth Warren wants to stop inequality before it Starts” <i>NYT</i> Jan 3rd 2019</p> <p>[Steinmo & Watts "It's the Institutions, Stupid!" <i>Journal of Health Politics</i> Summer 1995]</p>
Feb 26 W Catch-up	<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>[* Alesina, Glaeser and Sacerdote “Why Doesn’t the US Have a Welfare State?”]</p> <p>[Lane Kenworthy “America’s Social Democratic Future” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Jan/Feb 2014]</p>
Week 6 Social democracy	
March 2 M Nordic Welfare States	<p>* Esping-Andersen “Three Worlds of Welfare”</p> <p>* <i>The Economist</i> Special Report on Nordic Countries “Northern Lights” 2/2/2013</p> <p>Neil Irwin “With Aid, More People Work” <i>NYT</i> 12/18/14</p> <p>[Stepan and Linz ‘Comparative Perspectives on Inequality’ <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> Dec 2011]</p>
March 4 W Healthcare in Europe	<p>TR Reid <i>Healing of America</i> Chs 2, 3, 7 (US, UK)</p> <p>Dylan Scott “The Netherlands has Universal Health Insurance” <i>Vox.com</i> Jan 17th 2020</p> <p>[* Wilensky 5]</p> <p>[Howard Friedman “The Measure of a Nation” (Prometheus 2012) Ch 1)]</p> <p>[The Commonwealth Fund – latest cross-national survey of healthcare.]</p>

Spring Break	
Week 7 Public Health	
March 23 M	Healthcare in Japan [Reid Ch 8]
March 25 W Opioid crisis	Ella Nilsen “Why is it Easier to Get Opioids in the US than Europe” <i>Vox.com</i> Aug 8 th 2017 <i>Freakonomics</i> podcast # 402 “The Opioid Tragedy” Pt 1 Jan 15 th 2020 (48 mins) * Dasgupta et al “Opioid Crisis: No Easy Fix” <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> (2018: 108) 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
Week 8 Big Tech	
March 30 M Privacy in Europe vs US	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 [Jeff Toobin “The Solace of Oblivion” <i>The New Yorker</i> 9/29/14]
April 1 W Surveillance Capitalism	Shoshanna Zuboff <i>Surveillance Capitalism</i> Kashimir Hill “A Facial Recognition App puts Privacy at Risk” <i>NYT</i> 1/19/20 Bruce Schneier “We’re banning facial recognition. We’re missing the Point” <i>NYT</i> 1/20/20
Week 9 Finance and whatnot	
April 6 M Bubbles	Galbraith <i>Short History of Financial Euphoria</i> Mat Taibbi “Ten Years after the Crash” <i>Rolling Stone</i> Sept 13 th 2018
April 8 W	TBD
Week 10 Prep	
April 13 M	Workshop on papers and presentatons
April 15 W	Individual Meetings
Week 11 Presentations	

April 20 M	Individual Meetings
April 22 W	Presentations 2
Week 12 Presentations	
April 29 M	Presentations 2
April 29 W	Presentations 2
Week 13 Presentations	
May 4 M	Presentations 2
May 6 W Last Class	Presentations 1

Sources for Governments, Markets and Morals

“Life Expectancy in America has Declined” *The Economist* Jan 4th 2018

Role of Government

Arthur Brooks *The Road to Freedom* (Basic Books, 2012) Ch 6 “The Government We Want”

Darrick Hamilton “Neoliberalism and Race” *Democracy* 53 (Summer 2019)

*Wendy Brown *In the Ruins of Neoliberalism* (Columbia University Press, 2019) Ch 1

Inequality and insecurity

Steven Vogel “Elizabeth Warren wants to stop Inequality before it Starts” *NYT* Jan 3rd 2019

Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson “Winner Take All Politics” *Politics and Society* 38(2) 2010, pp 152-204

Jonathan Hopkin and Kate Alexander Shaw “Organized Combat or Structural Advantage? The Politics of Inequality and the Winner Take All Economy in the UK” *Politics and Society* 44 (3) September 2016

Equality

*Debra Satz *Why Some Things Should Not be for Sale* Ch 3 “Markets and Equality”

Josh Rothman “Same Difference: not all equalities are created equal” *New Yorker* Jan 13th 2020

Jill Lepore “Richer and Poor: Accounting for Inequality” *New Yorker* March 16th 2015

Nathan Heller “The Structure of Equality” *New Yorker* Jan 7th 2019 (profile of philosopher Elizabeth Anderson)

Jacob Hacker “The Great Risk Shift” *TalkingPointsMemo* October 24th 2018

Brian Burgoon “Immigration, Integration and Support for Redistribution in Europe” *World Politics* 66.3 July 2014

Government in the Economy

Mariana Mazzacuto *The Entrepreneurial State* (Penguin 2015)

Mariana Mazzacuto *The Value of Everything* (Penguin 2018)

Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson *American Amnesia* (Simon and Schuster, 2016)
Intro; Ch 1 “Coming Up Short”; Ch 3 “The Trouble with Markets”; Conclusion:
“Positive Sum Society” (337-369)

Politics Guys podcast March 28th 2018 Interview with Jacob Hacker (*Risk Shift* and
American Amnesia)

Noam Lupu “Why We Fell Behind” review of *American Amnesia*, *Democracy: a
Journal of Ideas* May 16 2016

Shoshana Zuboff “Big Other: Surveillance Capitalism and the Prospects of an
Information Civilization” *Journal of Information Technology* 30 (1) March 2015 pp 75-
89

Talking Politics podcast Feb 13th 2019 “The Nightmare of Surveillance Capitalism”
Interview with Shoshana Zuboff
[https://www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com/blog/2019/144-the-nightmare-of-surveillance-
capitalism](https://www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com/blog/2019/144-the-nightmare-of-surveillance-capitalism)

Lix Alderman & Amie Tsang “Europe’s Lessons on Net Neutrality” NYT 12/11/2017

The Weeds 12/5/2017 “Net Neutrality Explained”