

PHIL 3360 – Philosophy, Economics, and Public Policy
Winter 2021

Tuesdays & Thursdays 14:35 – 15:55

Instructor: Kerry O'Neill Kerry.oneill@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday 14:35 – 15:55 via Zoom

Blended course

Description

This is a blended course with synchronous and asynchronous components. The course explores issues at the intersection of philosophy and economics, with a special focus on socially and politically relevant issues. The topic of this class is commodification. Some of the theorists we will examine argue that it is wrong to assign a price tag to certain goods or services because to do so is degrading or exploitative. Others claim that anything that may be done for free may be done for a price. Our class will examine the moral limits of the market by concentrating on how these arguments apply to financial transactions involving the sale of bodily goods and services. Examples we will focus on include sex work, surrogacy, and kidney sales.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should possess a broad, basic familiarity with the topic of commodification. In addition, you should have developed your ability to:

- Read and understand difficult and challenging texts
- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of arguments
- Appreciate unfamiliar ideas and points of view
- Articulate your own views clearly in oral discussion
- Write clearly, concisely, and effectively in support of your claims

Course Structure

All lectures will be virtual and be posted 24 hours before the official assigned class time on Tuesdays from 2:30 – 3:55pm. The lecture videos will not exceed the length of our class time slot. This means our class will not meet on Tuesdays. Instead, our class will only meet on **Thursdays (2:30 – 3:55pm)**.

Thursday classes will involve whole class and small group discussions. You are expected to come to class having watched the lecture videos and completed the readings. This means all students should be prepared to discuss course materials and should come with questions or concerns they may have about readings.

Links to our discussion sessions will be posted on cuLearn and, as needed, question prompts may be posted in advance of our discussions.

Assignments and Assessments

1. Critical Reflections:

You will be expected to submit four (4) critical reflections over the course of the semester. Each assignment should be 2-3 pages in length (12 pt. font, double spaced, regular margins). For each assignment, you will be asked to choose a topic from the course readings that you find interesting and critically engage with that topic/argument/idea. You will select one of the assigned readings, or portion thereof, summarize its main claims, and offer some critical reflections on it. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage you to read and analyze small portions of the texts, while providing you with multiple opportunities to practice and improve your writing and critical thinking skills. More information will be provided in class and posted to cuLearn. Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day.

Critical reflections are to be submitted on cuLearn, and the due dates are as follows:

Critical Reflection 1	Feb. 5 by 5:00pm
Critical Reflection 2	Feb. 26 by 5:00pm
Critical Reflection 3	March 19 by 5:00pm
Critical Reflection 4	April 9 by 5:00pm

2. Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to come to class having completed the readings and lecture videos and prepared to discuss the readings. During Thursday classes, students will work in groups of 3-4 answering assigned questions about the readings and preparing arguments to defend a particular textual interpretation or practical proposal. Groups will share their responses with the class and an open discussion will ensue. At the end of class, each group will turn in their written answers on cuLearn and this will be the basis for your mark. The written answers will be marked as pass/fail.

3. Take Home Exam:

The take home exam will be assigned on the last day of class (April 13) and due electronically on the last day of the Winter exam period (April 27). The exam will be essay-based and pertain to material covered throughout the term. Take Home Exams must be submitted to cuLearn.

*****Extra Credit:**

When you start learning about how the world works, it makes you notice new things. Over the course of the semester, you can submit up to three (3) “weekly encounters” to cuLearn. You just have to describe what you “encountered” – a song, film, tweet, news story, book, etc. – provide a link (if applicable) and clearly connect it to our course materials in 100 words or more. The extra credit will be applied directly to your final grade at the end of the semester. Completing 3 encounters can boost your grade by up to 4%.

1 encounter = 1%

2 encounters = 2%

3 encounters = 4%

Weights:

Critical Reflections	See syllabus above for due dates	(4 x 10% each) 40%
Attendance and Participation	Weekly (Thursdays)	(10 x 3% each week) 30%
Take Home Exam	April 27	30%
Extra Credit	Up to 3 times	Max 4% bonus

*Additional information regarding the assignments will be provided in class and/or on cuLearn.

Course Website

I will be using the course website on cuLearn to post regular updates and information about the course, copies of all slides and material distributed in class, lists of supplemental readings, additional resources, and information and advice about assessment. I encourage you to check in regularly.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The articles for this course are posted as PDFs on cuLearn. The reading load will usually be between 25 and 50 pages per week. Some weeks may be longer or also include short video clips.

	Classes	Topics and Required Reading
Week 1	January 12 & 14	<u>Course Introductions</u>
Week 2	January 19 & 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Sandel, "What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of the Market," Tanner Lectures on Human Values 1998
Week 3	January 26 & 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Walzer, <i>Spheres of Justice</i> (Basic Books, 1998): 3-26; 64-67; 75-110 - Ronald Dworkin, "To Each His Own," NYT Review of Books, April 14, 2003
Week 4	February 2 & 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elizabeth Anderson, "Ethical Limitations of the Market," <i>Economics and Philosophy</i> 6, no. 2 (1990): 179-205 - Elizabeth Anderson, "Is Women's Labor a Commodity?" <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> 19, no. 1 (1990): 71-92
Week 5	February 9 & 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anne Phillips, "It's My Body and I'll Do What I Like With It: Bodies as Objects and Property," <i>Political Theory</i> 39, no. 6 (2011): 724-748 - Kimberly Krawiec, "A Woman's Worth," <i>North Carolina Law Review</i> 88 (2010): 1739-1769.
Week 6	February 16 & 18	READING WEEK
Week 7	February 23 & 25	<u>Exploitation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alan Wertheimer, "Unfair Transactions," - Jeremy Snyder, "Exploitation and demeaning choices," <i>Politics, Philosophy & Economics</i> 12, no. 4 (2013): 345-360
Week 8	March 2 & 4	<u>Gametes, Surrogacy, and Reproductive Labour</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alan Wertheimer, "Two Questions About Surrogacy and Exploitation," <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 21, no. 3 (1992): 211-239 - Françoise Baylis, "Transnational Commercial Contract Pregnancy in India," 265-286 - François Baylis and Carolyn McLeod, "The stem cell debate continues: the buying and selling of eggs for research," <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i> 33, no. 12 (2007): 726-731

Week 9	March 9 & 11	<u>Sexual Labour</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debra Satz, "Markets in Women's Sexual Labor," 135-153 - Ole Martin Moen, "Is prostitution harmful?" <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i> 40, no. 2 (2014): 73-81
Week 10	March 16 & 18	<u>Kidney Sales</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alvin Roth, "Repugnance as a Constraint on Markets," <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 21, no. 3 (2007): 37-58 - Hallie Liberto, "Noxious Markets versus Noxious Gift Relationships," <i>Social Theory and Practice</i> 39, no. 2 (2013): 265-287
Week 11	March 23 & 25	<u>Blood, Plasma, and Milk Markets</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vida Panitch and L. Chad Horne, "Paying for Plasma: Commodification, Exploitation, and Canada's Plasma Shortage," <i>Canadian Journal of Bioethics</i> 2, no. 2 (2019): 1-10 - Robyn Lee, "Commodifying Compassion: Affective Economies of Human Milk Exchange," <i>Bioethics</i> 12, no. 2 (2019): 92-116.
Week 12	March 30 & April 1	<u>Guinea Pigs for Pay?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erik Malmqvist, "Paid to Endure": Paid Research Participation, Passivity, and the Goods of Work," <i>American Journal of Bioethics</i> 19, no. 9 (2019): 11-20 - Emily A. Largent and Holly Fernandez Lynch, "Paying Participants in COVID-19 Trials," <i>The Journal of Infectious Diseases</i> 222 no. 3 (2020): 1-6 - Julian Savulescu, "The Fiction of "Undue Inducement": Why Researchers Should Be Allowed to Pay Participants Any Amount of Money for Any Reasonable Research Project," <i>The American Journal of Bioethics</i> 1, no. 2 (2001): 1-3
Week 13	April 6 & 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jason Brennan and Peter Jaworski, <i>Markets Without Limits: Moral Virtues and Commercial Interests</i> (Routledge 2016), Part 1 - Vida Panitch, "Liberalism, commodification, and justice," <i>Politics, Philosophy & Economics</i> 19, no. 1 (2020): 62-82
Week 14	April 13	<u>Course Wrap-up</u> *Take Home Exam distributed

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2020-21)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or religious obligation:* write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the [EDC](#) website.
- *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* The [Paul Menton Centre](#) for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for [Student Activities](#):* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Important Dates:

Sept. 9	Classes start.
Sept. 23	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 12	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 27	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 11	Last day of fall term classes. <i>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</i> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course.
Dec. 12-23	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 23	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 11	Classes begin.
Jan. 25	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 15	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 15-19	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 31	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 2	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 14	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses. <i>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</i>
Apr. 15	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 16-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 27	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
520-7850

Writing Services:
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>
520-3822

MacOdrum Library
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>
520-2735