
PHIL 5500:
Topics in Contemporary Philosophy
The Proper Role of Markets



Fall 2019
Course Outline

I. Admin

Instructor: Gabriele Contessa

Office: PA 3A43

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:35pm-3:25pm or by appointment

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[Seminar Schedule](#)

II. Description

What role should markets play in our society? A first possible answer is that markets should play a central role, as markets allocate resources efficiently and promote desirable values, such as prosperity and freedom. A second possible answer is that markets should play a limited role, as unfettered markets lead to unacceptable outcomes, such as the corruption of social norms or unjust inequalities. A third possible answer is that, while markets are not problematic in and of themselves, specific markets are problematic because they tend to lead to exploitation or they promote the wrong values. This seminar will explore some variations on these possible answers.

III. Prerequisites

Registration in a Philosophy Master's Program.

IV. Readings

Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom (Fortieth Anniversary Edition)*, University of Chicago Press, 2002. [Other editions are also fine]

Giacomo Corneo, *Is Capitalism Obsolete? A Journey Through Alternative Economic Systems*, Harvard University Press, 2017.

All of the other readings will be made available through cuLearn.

Please bring all required texts to class with you, as we may need to consult the text from time to time.

V. Assignments and Grading

(Please note that all dates are tentative and subject to change; please consult the version of this Course Outline posted on cuLearn regularly for changes)

- a. Class Attendance and Participation (worth 15% of the final grade).
- b. Weekly Summaries (jointly worth 10% of your final grade)
- c. Weekly Discussion Questions (jointly worth 15% of your final grade).
- d. Paper Proposal (worth 10% of the final grade; due Mar 15)
- e. Final Paper (worth 30% of the final grade; due on April 5)

VI. Policies

Attendance. Attendance is mandatory. If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what has been covered in class and for any course-related announcements. If unforeseen circumstances are preventing you from attending class regularly, it is your responsibility to inform me as soon as possible.

Readings. You are responsible for consulting the Seminar Schedule online before each class to find out the readings for that class and for reading each of them carefully. Please be aware that, if you don't do the readings, you are very unlikely to do well in this course.

Communications. You are responsible for checking regularly your Carleton email account for course-related messages and announcements. You are also responsible for checking regularly the Seminar Schedule online for any changes or updates.

Paper Proposal. Your Paper Proposal presents an outline of your Final Paper. Your paper proposal should include: the thesis of your Final Paper, your argument in support of that thesis, and a brief summary of the relevant literature. The deadline for the Paper Proposal is at 11:59pm of the day the assignment is due. The word limit is 1,000 words. The Paper Proposal is to be sent as an attachment by e-mail to gabriele_contessa@carleton.ca and cc'ed to g.contessa@gmail.com. The name of the file and the subject line of the e-mail must be "PHIL 5500 Paper Proposal - yourlastname." Please note that only .rtf, .doc, .docx, and .txt attachments are accepted. Please do not submit your Paper Proposal as a .pdf. Please make sure that you have a copy of your message in the sent mail folder in

your e-mail account (or that you cc the e-mail to yourself) as proof of your submission and that that copy contains the original attachment.

Failing to submit your Paper Proposal will result in a 0% on that component of your final grade. Late Paper Proposals will receive a 5-point penalty for every day they are late.

Final Paper. Your Final Paper should develop the ideas on your Paper Proposal in light of the feedback I have given you. The deadline for the Final Paper is at 11:59pm of the last day of classes (see above). The word limit is 4,000 words. The Final Paper is to be sent as an attachment by e-mail to gabriele_contessa@carleton.ca and cc'ed to g.contessa@gmail.com. The name of the file and the subject line of the e-mail must be "PHIL 5500 Paper Proposal - yourlastname." Please note that only .rtf, .doc, .docx, and .txt attachments are accepted. Please do not submit your Paper Proposal as a .pdf. Please make sure that you have a copy of your message in the sent mail folder in your e-mail account (or that you cc the e-mail to yourself) as proof of your submission and that that copy contains the original attachment.

Failing to submit your Final Paper will result in a 0% on that component of your final grade. Late Final Papers will receive a 5-point penalty for every day they are late.

All work submitted must be exclusively the work of the individual student submitting it. Please be aware that plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration are very serious academic offences (see below) and that I am bound to report any suspected academic offence directly to the Office of the Dean.

Summaries. Summaries are to be submitted each week before the beginning of the seminar meeting. In each summary, you have to outline in your own words and as clearly, informatively, accurately, and concisely as possible the key theses and/or arguments of each of the week's readings. Summaries cannot exceed 500 words. Longer summaries will be penalized. Please submit each summary by sending it in the body of an e-mail with subject line 'Seminar Summaries for [date]' (e.g. 'Seminar Summaries for October 23'). Each summary must include a word count. Graduate students will take turns to introduce each chapter/article by reading their summary of it in class. *Failing to submit a summary on time will result in a 0% on that summary.*

Discussion Questions. Discussion Questions are to be posted on cuLearn each week before the beginning of each seminar meeting (with the exception of the first meeting). You are expected to submit two questions for each chapter/article that we are reading for that day. An interpretive question and an evaluative question. Examples of interpretive questions are questions of the form 'What do you think is the argument in the x^{th} paragraph of page y ?' or 'What do you think the author means when s/he says ' x ' on page y ?'. Examples of evaluative questions are questions of the form 'Do you think that the argument for x on page y succeeds?' or 'Do you think that the author is correct in claiming that x on page y ?'. The subject line of your post should have the last name of the author, the number of the chapter/year of the article, and 'IQ' for interpretive questions or 'EQ' for evaluative questions (e.g. 'Rawls (Ch 2) EQ', 'Dworkin (1981) IQ'). Everything else being equal, specific questions (i.e. questions that refer to a specific sentence or paragraph) are preferable to general questions. In class, students will take turns asking their questions. Each student is expected to offer a reasoned answer to their own question. *Failing to submit your discussion questions on time will result in a 0% for that week.*

Drafts. While I am happy to answer any general questions about you might have about your assignments, please be advised that I am not able to provide any feedback on draft assignments.

Extensions. Extensions will be granted only in *extraordinary* circumstances (e.g. serious illness or family emergency) *and* only if the extension is requested *in writing before* the assignment deadline. If you think you may need an extension, please contact me as soon as possible by e-mail.

Academic Integrity. You are responsible for ensuring that you understand the nature of academic offences (such as plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration), as defined in the Undergraduate Calendar (see [here](#)), and to avoid both committing them and aiding or abetting academic offences perpetrated by other students. Please be aware that I am bound to report any suspected academic offence directly to the Office of the Dean.

Final Grades. All final grades are subject to the approval of the Dean.

VII. Schedule

The Seminar Schedule can be found online (see link above). It contains a reading schedule, as well as other important course information, such as assignment deadlines. Please check the Seminar Schedule posted on cuLearn regularly for any updates or changes.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2019-20)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- Must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips.
- Must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box).
- Must include the following on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

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 Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within **3 working days** after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within **3 working days** after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Pregnancy 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 Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

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 Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

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 is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

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.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit:

students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Important Dates:

Sept. 4	Classes start.
Sept. 17	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. 14	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 21-25	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 22	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. 6	Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. 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. 9-21	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. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 17	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 24	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. 7	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.
Apr. 10	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 13-25	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 25	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy
Registrar's Office:	520-2110 300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar
Academic Advising Centre:	520-3500 302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
Writing Services:	520-7850 4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/
MacOdrum Library	520-3822 http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735