

## Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

Instructor: Jeff Carroll

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### Course Description:

PPE – short for philosophy, politics, and economics – is an interdisciplinary approach to studying social and political questions. This course begins by investigating applied issues from a PPE perspective. Then we open up the toolkit of formal tools used by PPE practitioners. In the third unit, we study foundational normative issues in PPE. Finally, the course concludes with a series of debates concerning what are the justified institutions.

### Assignments:

- Participation: 20%
- Midterm:  $\frac{x}{y}$  %
- Paper:  $\frac{y}{z}$  %                      Due Date: TBA
- Final:  $\frac{z}{x}$  %                        Due Date: TBA
- \*\*Students decide how (voting, deliberating, bargaining, etc.) to allocate the remaining 80% of the grade. It is stipulated that: (1) x, y, and z must *each* be equal to or greater than 1, and, (2) x, y, and z must sum to 80.

### Schedule:

#### *Week 1: PPE in Practice*

- Day 1: Introduction / Voting
- Day 2: Voting (cont.):
  - o Selections from: Ilya Somin, *Democracy and Political Ignorance* and Bryan Caplan, *The Myth of the Rational Voter*
- Day 3: Sex:
  - o Lori Watson, “Why Sex Work Isn’t Work”
  - o David Friedman, “Marriage, Sex, and Babies”
- Day 4: Drugs:
  - o Michael Huemer, “America’s Unjust Drug War”
  - o Peter de Marneffe, “Against the Legalization of Drugs”
- Day 5: Immigration:
  - o Chris Freiman and Javier Hidalgo, “Liberalism Or Immigration Restrictions, But Not Both”

#### *Week 2: The PPE Toolkit*

- Day 6: Game Theory:
  - o Gerald Gaus, *On Philosophy, Politics and Economics*, Ch. 4
- Day 7: Rational Choice Theory:
  - o Brian Kogelmann and Gerald Gaus, “Rational Choice Theory,” Ch.11 in *Methods in Analytical Political Theory*
- Day 8: Social Choice Theory:

- Daniel Hausman and Michael McPherson, *Economic Analysis, Moral Philosophy and Public Policy*, Ch. 13
- Day 9: Public Choice Theory:
  - James Buchanan, “Public Choice: Politics without Romance”
  - Michael Huemer, “Why People are Irrational about Politics”
- Day 10: **Midterm**

*Week 3: Normative Foundations*

- Day 11: Methodology:
  - Chris Freiman, *Unequivocal Justice*, Ch. 1
- Day 12: Utilitarianism:
  - Selections from John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*
- Day 13: Social Contract Theory:
  - Selections from John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*
- Day 14: Libertarianism:
  - Selections from Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*
- Day 15: Socialism:
  - G.A. Cohen, “Robert Nozick and Wilt Chamberlain: How Patterns Preserve Liberty”

*Week 4: Institutional Analysis*

- Day 16: Democracy, Good:
  - Selections from Helene Landemore, *Democratic Reason*
- Day 17: Democracy, Bad:
  - Selections from Jason Brennan, *Against Democracy* and Christopher Achen and Larry Bartels, *Democracy for Realists*
- Day 18: Capitalism, Good:
  - Jason Brennan and Peter Jaworski, *Markets without Limits*, Part 1
- Day 19: Capitalism, Bad:
  - Selections from Debra Satz, *Why Some Things Should Not Be For Sale* and Elizabeth Anderson, *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don't Talk About It)*
- Day 20: Review