

HUL 360: Selected Topics in Philosophy

Ist Semester, 2024-25

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Course description

This semester's 'Special Topic' will be on ethics and economics, broadly conceived. We will examine questions such as: are there goods which ought not to be bought and sold in the market? How should we measure poverty and well-being? In what sense is the "free market" really *free*?

We are unlikely to reach definitive conclusions on these issues. The aim, rather, is to appreciate some of the philosophical complexities which lie *behind* these questions.

We shall use, as a textbook, *Economic Analysis, Moral Philosophy, and Public Policy* by Hausman, McPherson, and Satz. For those who have access to the book, the material to be covered will be from parts I-III, with some supplementary readings.

Pre-requisites and expectations

There are no pre-requisites except enthusiasm, and a willingness to work. Since we will be carrying on a sustained conversation from one class to the next, I expect you to attend every class and do your reading before coming to class.

Administrative matters

I have a strict prohibition on the use of electronic devices in class: you must bring hardcopies, which will be made available in SCOOPS.

Evaluation

I am increasingly of the view that the setting of exams and assignments, as well as their evaluation, comes in the way of learning. That said, my job does require me to prepare a framework for evaluation:

Pass-marks: 30% (audit-pass: 40%)
30% in-class quizzes and response papers
5% online notes
25% mid-term exam (open-notes)
30% (open-notes)
10% Writing reflection (take-home)

There is no formal attendance criterion, but 75% attendance is required for auditors.