

Political Science 7991
Special Topics in Political Theory:
Economy and Polity, Morality and Faith
Fall 1998

Our topic is the relation of economic and political order, or the economic basis of political liberty. We will explore three economic paradigms — the ancient household economy, modern capitalism, and modern socialism — and the regimes they support or require, proceeding more or less in the order of their historical development. Following James Booth's *Households: On the Moral Architecture of the Economy*, we will consider each economic paradigm in the light of the moral order it sought to support or promote, adding to his account a study of the theology of wealth in each period and its political implications.

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Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-4:00
Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30-9:15
and by appointment

Course requirements:

Biweekly 4-5 page papers on topics in the readings [60%]
Class attendance and participation [10%]
Final take-home examination [30%]

Books available for purchase:

William James Booth, *Households: On the Moral Architecture of the Economy* (Cornell)
Leo Strauss, *Xenophon's Socratic Discourse* (St. Augustine)
Aristotle, *Politics* [tr. Peter Simpson] (North Carolina)
John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Cambridge)
Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, 2 vols. (Liberty Fund)
Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography* (Random)
Robert Tucker, ed., *Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton)
Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Prentice Hall)
Pope Leo X, *Rerum Novarum: On the Condition of the Working Classes* (Daughters of St. Paul)
Paul Tillich, *Political Expectations* (Mercer)
Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (Chicago)
Michael Novak, *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism* (Madison)
Pope John Paul II, *On the Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum: Centesimus Annus* (Daughters of St. Paul)

Library Reserve:

Many of the readings for the course will be made available on reserve in Middleton Library. In addition, I may from time to time place on reserve certain secondary works that I think you might find particularly useful in helping you interpret the authors we are studying. It should go without saying that secondary works are no substitute for the assigned reading; indeed, read without knowledge of the originals they are more apt to mislead than assist you.

SYLLABUS:

I. THE PARADIGM: HOUSEHOLD TO MARKET TO STATE

Wed., 8/26 Booth, *Households*, pp. 1-93

Wed., 9/2 *Households*, pp. 95-296

II. ANCIENT ECONOMICS & POLITICS

Wed., 9/9 Xenophon, "Oeconomicus," in Strauss, *Xenophon's Socratic Discourse*

Wed., 9/16 Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I-IV

Wed., 9/23 Bible: Proverbs, Gospels (excerpts);
Aquinas, selections

III. MODERN CAPITALISM & LIBERAL GOVERNMENT

Wed., 9/30 Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*, excerpts

Wed., 10/7 Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, excerpts

Wed., 10/14 *The Wealth of Nations*, excerpts

Wed., 10/21 Franklin, *Autobiography*

IV. MODERN SOCIALISM & THE RATIONAL STATE

Wed., 10/28 Marx, selections

Wed., 11/4 Marx, selections
[W. James Booth, Vanderbilt University: guest speaker]

Wed., 11/11 Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Wed., 11/18 Pope Leo X, *Rerum Novarum*
Paul Tillich, *Political Expectations*

V. REVIVAL OF FREE ENTERPRISE & DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONALISM

Wed., 11/25 Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*

Wed., 12/2 Novak, *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*
Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*