

POLS 1820  
Market Liberalism: Origins, Principles and Contemporary Applications  
Professor John Tomasi  
Brown University

*The Topic:*

This course explores the relationship between economic freedom and social justice. The economic liberties of capitalism have often been said to be in tension with the moral ideal of distributive justice. What are the economic liberties of capitalism and what moral value, if any, do they have? What does a commitment to social justice require? Why are libertarians traditionally skeptical of social justice as a moral ideal? How do liberal conceptions of social justice compare to socialist ones? Can capitalists care about social justice? Should they?

*The Requirements:*

1) Weekly Seminars. This is a demanding, reading intensive senior seminar. Students should expect to devote at least five hours of reading time per week in preparation for seminar. Every student is expected to participate verbally in every seminar meeting. (This is not a course for the strong, silent type). 2) Seminar Presentation. Each student will work in a team to prepare one brief presentation to launch the seminar discussion each week. 3) Term Paper. Each student will write a 15-20 page seminar paper, due at semester's end.

*The Schedule:*

Introduction to the Course

**GA Cohen** *Why Not Socialism?* (2009) and **Ayn Rand** *Atlas Shrugged* (1957) (John Galt speech).

**Ludwig von Mises** *Liberalism* (1927).

**F.A. Hayek** "The Use of Knowledge in Society" (*American Economic Review*, 1945) and *The Road to Serfdom* (1944).

**Milton Friedman** *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962).

**Murray Rothbard** *For a New Liberty* (1973)  
<http://mises.org/rothbard/newlibertywhole.asp>.

**Robert Nozick** *Anarchy State and Utopia* (1974).

**Charles Murray** *What it Means to Be a Libertarian* (1997).

**Samuel Freeman** 'Illiberal Libertarians: Why Libertarianism Is Not a Liberal View' *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 30:2 (2001), 105-151; 'Capitalism in the Classical and High Liberal Traditions' *Social Philosophy and Policy*, 28/2 (2011), 19-55.

**John Tomasi** *Free Market Fairness* (2012) 1-122.

**John Tomasi** *Free Market Fairness* (2012) 123-172.

**GA Cohen** 'Are Disadvantaged Workers Who Take Hazardous Jobs Forced to Take Hazardous Jobs' *History, Labour and Freedom: Themes from Marx* (1989) pp. 239-254; 'The Structure of Proletarian Unfreedom' *History, Labour and Freedom: Themes from Marx* (1989) pp. 255-285; 'Freedom and Money' (2001) 1-32.

**Andre Gorz** *Farewell to the Working Class* (2001) 1-145.