

Markets & Morality: First-Year Seminar

PHIL 0430

Description

Market exchange, where the seller provides a good or service at a price the buyer accepts, serves as a basic element of our society. It embodies certain values of freedom of exchange, and, when well-functioning, promotes economic efficiency. We also know there are illegal markets for human organs, an enormous amount of money is spent to influence our democratic elections, and that giving a friend a loan can change the dynamics of your relationship. Should everything be for sale? How should we balance the benefits and values of free market exchange with other values? What influence do markets have in shaping the way we relate to one another? This course will consider questions like these to explore when and what kind of moral limits should be placed on markets.

Requirements (subject to change)

An assignment will be due about every other week developing the analytic skills central to the course. Taken together each student's final grade will be assessed by:

- 1 argument reconstruction (1-2 page(s)) – 5%
- 2 argument reconstructions that each consider a counterargument (2-3 pages) – 10% each
- Paper 1 outline (1 page) and essay (5 pages) – 25%
- Paper 2 outline (1 page) and essay (7 pages) – 35%
- Perusall notes on the reading – 15%
- Attendance and participation is expected

Readings

Readings will come from both course texts and material posted to Canvas; on average expect to read 20-25 pages in preparation for each meeting.

Sample Texts

Michael Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets*

Jason Brennan & Peter Jaworski, *Markets without Limits: Moral Virtues and Commercial Interests*

- Note: **Students will need to purchase the texts through Perusall on the Course Website (Together, both cost approximately \$40 for 180 day online license).**