

**The Freedom Project:  
A Seminar on Economic Freedom, Religious Freedom, and Social Justice,  
Sponsored by the Templeton Foundation**

**Boston College  
Po 371/Ec381 Fall 2000 — Spring 2001**

**Syllabus Fall 2000**

**Instructors:**

Professor Marc Landy	marc.landy@bc.edu	Tu 3:00-4:30 & by appt. (McGuinn 228)
Professor Joseph Quinn	joseph.quinn@bc.edu	W 5:00-5:45 (Gasson 103)
Professor Alan Wolfe	alan.wolfe@bc.edu	M 1:30-3:00 (24 Quincy Rd.)
Thomas J. DeNardo (TA)	denardot@bc.edu	By appt.

**Time and Place:**

M 3-5 (plus a one-hour undergraduate section, time to be arranged), 24 Quincy Street.

**Introduction:**

In this two semester course, students will be introduced to classic works in economic freedom and religious liberty and will then consider the relevance of these works to contemporary political and moral controversies in the United States, including debates over school choice, the living wage, the environment, racial justice, and moral education.

Although a two semester course, we envision the syllabus as divided into three major portions. The first will review important eighteenth and nineteenth century debates over economic freedom, concluding with the establishment of the twentieth century welfare state in Europe and America and the effort to establish socialism in East and Central Europe. Our objective in this part of the course is to consider such questions as whether property rights are the foundations of all rights, whether the good society is best obtained through maximum economic freedom or some effort at conscious planning, whether prosperity and economic growth undermine the virtues that make capitalist growth possible in the first place, whether there is such a thing as human nature and whether it can be changed, and what the proper relationship should be between the state and the market. We will read in this part of the course Smith, Hayek, Mill, Marx, Beveridge, Myrdal, Hirsch, and Skidelsky.

The second part of the course will consider classic works in moral philosophy and religious freedom. We will examine the origin of the idea of freedom of the will, theories of personal autonomy, negative and positive liberty, the separation of church and state, the idea of religious tolerance, and Catholic contributions to social justice. The questions we will ask include whether economic freedom serves or hampers religious freedom, the impact of disestablishmentarianism on religious belief, whether religious tolerance should be grounded on religious ideas or secular ones, whether moral obligations can exist in the absence of faith, and what the major religions of the West have to say about the just wage and income distribution. In this part of the course we will read Kant, Locke, Madison, Jefferson, James, Dewey, and Novak.

In the third section (beginning Spring 2001) of the course students will be asked to think about the role that economic and religious freedom have played in contemporary debates over racial justice; school reform, including school choice; ordinances promoting a living wage; the death penalty; and abortion and euthanasia. Readings will include works by authors such as King, Viteritti, Dworkin, Walzer, and various Papal Encyclicals.

This course will meet once a week in a two hour session (M 3-5) with the instructors and there will be one additional meeting with the graduate teaching assistant (time to be confirmed). Both these sessions will take place at the Center for Religion and American Public Life, 24 Quincy Street (off College Road). Each student will be expected to do the readings, participate in class discussion, and undertake a major year-long research project exploring an aspect of contemporary economic and moral debate using the theoretical materials as a way to frame the questions. Attendance at the undergraduate section is compulsory.

In addition to leading the weekly seminar discussions, the instructors will invite relevant members of the Boston College community to attend specific sessions and add their expertise.

### **First Semester Assessment:**

A take-home mid-term, a take-home final, and a research proposal for your longer, second semester project. Each paper is worth 20% of the first semester grade; class participation is worth 40%.

### **Important Dates:**

- 10/16 1-2 page statement of research interest is due.
- 10/23 Take-home mid-term handed out.
- 10/30 Take-home mid-term due at beginning of class.
- 12/4 Research paper proposal due.
- 12/11 Take-home final handed out.
- 12/18 Take-home final due.

## Readings:

All students will read the following books (available at the BC Bookstore):

- Freidrich von Hayek, The Road to Serfdom
- Immanuel Kant, Groundings for the Metaphysics of Morals
- John Locke, Letter Concerning Toleration
- Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto
- Pius IX, Quanta Cura, Syllabus of Modern Errors
- Robert Skidelsky, The Road from Serfdom
- William James, Varieties of Religious Experience

*Note: Skidelsky is out of print, and only 5 copies are available for purchase at the BC bookstore. You might try to find a copy at one of these out-of-print book dealers:*

- <http://www.alibris.com/>
- <http://www.bn.com/>

A class packet containing all non-book readings will be available for purchase very soon, at a cost to be determined.

## I: ISSUES OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM

### 1. The Theory of the Market

9/11: Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations, selected chapters.

9/18: Freidrich von Hayek, The Road to Serfdom

### 2. The Appropriate Extent of the Market

9/25: Landes & Posner, The Economics of the Baby Shortage (in packet)

Stephen Spurr, The Proposed Market for Human Organs (in packet)

Horton & Horton, Improving the Current System for Supplying Organs for Transplantation (in packet)

Rothman, The International Organ Traffic (in packet)

### 3. Critiques of the Market

10/2: Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto

week of 10/9 (TBA): T. H. Marshall, Citizenship and Social Class (in packet)

The Beveridge Report (in packet)

*Note: 1-2 page statement of research interest due next week.*

10/16: Gunnar Myrdal, Beyond the Welfare State (in packet)  
Fred Hirsch, The Social Limits to Growth (in packet)  
*Note: 1-2 page statement of research interest due today.*

#### **4. Socialism and its Discontents**

10/23: Robert Skidelsky, The Road from Serfdom  
*Note: Take-home mid-term will be handed out today.*

## **II: ISSUES OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

### **1. Classic Texts**

10/30: Locke, Letter Concerning Toleration  
*Note: Take-home mid-term is due at the beginning of class today.*

11/6: Kant, Groundings for the Metaphysics of Morals

11/13: Madison, Memorial and Remonstrance (in packet)  
Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia (in packet)  
Jefferson, Letter to Roger C. Weightman (in packet)  
Institute for American Values, A Call to Civil Society: Why  
Democracy Needs Moral Truths (to be provided)

### **2. Religious Diversity**

11/20: James, Varieties of Religious Experience

11/27: *No class: Thanksgiving*

12/4: Pope Pius IX, Syllabus of Modern Errors  
Paul Blanshard, American Freedom and Catholic Power (in  
packet)  
*Note: Research paper proposal due today.*

### **3. Religion, Capitalism, and Democracy**

12/11 (TBA): Michael Novak, Spirit of Democratic Capitalism (in  
packet)  
*Note: Take-home final handed out today.*

## OVERVIEW OF SECOND SEMESTER

Dates and readings to be confirmed.

### III: CONTEMPORARY APPLICATIONS

#### 1. Income Distribution

Rerum Novarum  
Robert Frank, The Winner Take All Society  
Frank, Levy, The New Dollar and Dreams

#### 2. The Environment

Readings to include articles by leading environmental economists such as Robert Stavins, Paul Portney, and Robert Hahn and leading critiques of the economist's treat of environmental policy including William Ophuls, Mark Sagoff, and Joseph Sax.

#### 3. Healthcare

Readings to include leading advocates of "managed care" including Alain Enthoven, and leading critics of quasi free market approaches.

#### 4. Race

Thernstrom and Thernstrom, America in Black and White  
John DiIulio on faith-based approaches

#### 5. School Choice

Joseph Viteritti, Choosing Equality

#### 6. Abortion and Euthanasia

Ronald Dworkin, Life s Dominion