

**GVPT 859A/PHIL 688P/PUAF 698E/LAW 593K**  
**PROSEMINAR IN POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, AND PUBLIC POLICY**  
**Fall 2008**  
**Tuesdays 12:30-3:15**  
**Van Munching 1107**

**Instructors**

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**Texts**

Avinash Dixit and Barry Nalebuff, *Thinking Strategically: The Competitive Edge in Business, Politics, and Everyday Life* (Norton, 1991).

William Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism* (Waveland Press, 1982).

Norman Vig and Michael Kraft, eds., *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty First Century*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Washington: CQ Press, 2006).

Other readings will be available online (some on ELMS), or will be distributed in class.

**Course requirements**

A policy paper due December 19, roughly 6000 words.

An outline/prospectus for the paper, with a list of sources, will be due on November 4. Each student will give a 20-minute in-class presentation based on

his or her research for the policy paper. The presentations will take place on December 2 and 9.

Two short papers of approximately 2,000 words. Due October 14 and December 9. Topics to be distributed in class. The two short papers each count for about 20 percent of the grade, the policy paper about 40 percent, and the quality of class participation (including the presentation) about 20 percent.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

### **Part I: The Economic Approach to Public Policy**

#### **1. September 2: Strategic interaction, bargaining and game theory (KS)**

#### **2. September 9: The problem of collective action (KS)**

Dixit and Nalebuff, pp. 1-201.

Michael Taylor, *The Possibility of Cooperation*, chapter 1 (pp. 1-33). ELMS.

#### **3. September 17: States and markets (KS)**

Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets*, pp. 33-51, 76-89. ELMS.

Milton & Rose Friedman, *Free to Choose*, pp. 1-29. ELMS.

F. A. Hayek, "The Use of Knowledge in Society," *American Economic Review* 35 (1945): 519-30. Research Port.

Joseph Heath, "The Benefits of Cooperation," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 34 (2006): 313-51. Research Port.

#### **4. September 23: Democracy and social choice (KS)**

Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism*, chapters 1-7, 10 (pp. 1-196, 233-53), but skip sections 4F, G, and H of chapter 4, and only skim chapters 6 and 7.

#### **5. September 30: Utilitarianism and cost-benefit analysis (AW and KS)**

Will Kymlicka, "Utilitarianism," *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, chapter 2. ELMS.

Daniel Hausman and Michael McPherson, *Economic Analysis and Moral Philosophy*, chapter 6. ELMS.

Edith Stokey and Richard Zeckhauser, *A Primer for Policy Analysis*, chapter 9. ELMS.

Cass Sunstein, "Cognition and Cost-Benefit Analysis." *Journal of Legal Studies*, 29, no. 2 (2000): 1059-97; Research Port.

## **Part II: Intermezzo: Environmental Policy**

### **6. October 7: Policy issues: the environment (KS & AW)**

Norman Vig and Michael Kraft, eds., *Environmental Policy*, chapters 1, 9, 10, 11, 17.

Dale Jamieson, "Ethics, Public Policy, and Global Warming" ELMS.

Mark Sagoff, "At the Monument to General Meade or On the Difference between Beliefs and Benefits," in *Price, Principle, and the Environment*. ELMS.

## **Part III: Alternatives to Utilitarianism**

### **7. October 14: Liberal political conceptions of the good: the capabilities approach and primary goods (AW)**

Amartya Sen, "Capability and Well-Being," in A. Sen and M. Nussbaum, eds., *The Quality of Life* (1993), pp. 30-53. ELMS.

Martha Nussbaum, "Human Functioning and Social Justice: In Defense of Aristotelian Essentialism," *Political Theory* 20 (1992). Research Port

John Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, Lecture V. ELMS

UNDP, Human Development Report 2005, chapter 1, at <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2005/>

### **8. October 21: Liberalism and libertarianism (AW)**

Shelly Kagan, "Doing Harm," *Normative Ethics*, pp. 70-84. ELMS.

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* sections 1-3, 11-13 (p.78), 17 and 22. ELMS.

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Preface p. ix, Chapter 7. ELMS.

## **9. October 28: Deontology and rights (AW)**

Samuel Scheffler, *The Rejection of Consequentialism*, pp. 84-88. ELMS.

Carl Wellman, *A Theory of Rights*, pp. 8-15. ELMS.

Alec Walen, "In Defense of Deontology." (unpublished manuscript excerpt).

Kai Draper, "Rights and the Doctrine of Doing and Allowing," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 33 (2005): 253-280. Research Port.

## **10. November 4: Human rights and obligations I (AW)**

Alan Gewirth, "The Basis and Content of Human Rights," pp. 119-47 in John W. Chapman and J. Roland Pennock, eds., *Human Rights (Nomos XXIII, 1981)*. ELMS.

Joseph Raz, "Human Rights without Foundations." SSRN on line.

James Nickel, "Eight Responses to the Relativist" in *Making Sense of Human Rights*, 2d ed. (2007), pp. 168-84. ELMS

Xiaorong Li, "A Cultural Critique of Cultural Relativism" in *Ethics, Human Rights and Culture: Beyond Relativism and Universalism*. (2006), pp. 54-72. ELMS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):  
<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

European Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000): [www.europarl.eu.int/charter](http://www.europarl.eu.int/charter)

## **11. November 11: Human rights and obligations II (AW)**

Thomas Pogge, "Severe Poverty as a Human Rights Violation"  
[www.etikk.no/globaljustice/](http://www.etikk.no/globaljustice/)

Matthias Risse, "How Does the Global Order Harm the Poor?" *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 33, no 4 (2005): 349-76

Peter Singer, "One Community" in *One World*. ELMS.

## **Part IV: Deliberation and the Public Good**

## **12. November 18: Democracy and deliberation (KS)**

Amy Gutmann and Dennis Thompson, *Why Deliberative Democracy?*, pp. 3-8. ELMS.

Lynn M. Sanders, "Against Deliberation," *Political Theory* 25 (1997), pp. 347-76. Research Port.

Mark Sagoff, "The View From Quincy Library or Civic Engagement in Environmental Problem Solving, in *Price, Principle, and the Environment*, pp. 201-31. ELMS.

Joshua Cohen, "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy" and David Miller, "Deliberative Democracy and Social Choice." ELMS.

### **13. November 25: Politics, principle, and the public interest (KS)**

Steven Kelman, "Why Public Ideas Matter," and Giandomenico Majone, "Policy Analysis and Public Administration," both in R. Reich, ed., *The Power of Public Ideas*, pp. 31-54, 157-178. ELMS.

Roger Fisher and William Ury, *Getting to Yes*, chapter 1. ELMS.

### **Part V: Policy Papers**

### **14 & 15. December 2, 9: Student Presentations**