

Ethics of Enterprise and Exchange
Phil 120
Spring 2016

Meeting Times: TR 12:00-1:30
Office Hours: Mondays, 1:45-3:45
Office: Room 345, Susan Campbell Hall

Course Objectives

This course proceeds historically by first examining Aristotle's ancient notions of money and commerce, and then examining Adam Smith's (right at the beginning of culture's shift to the values emergent with the industrial revolution) analysis of how the division of labor leads to the wealth of nations. Smith's work on political economy then triggers Marx's critique of capitalism., especially in his article "Alienated Labor". Finally, we examine a contemporary analysis, Ruggie's Just Business that lays out "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights", designed to offer a "road map" for "corporate social responsibility".

Required Texts

1. Aristotle, Scott Meikle, ed., Aristotle's Economic Thought, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995.
2. Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations, Edwin Cannon (ed.), New York: Random House, 1994.
3. Marx, Karl. The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844, New York, Prometheus Books, 1988.
4. Just Business: Multinational Corporations and Human Rights, John Gerarde Ruggie, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013, Print.