
Spring 2017
MW 12:40 – 2:30pm
Case 337

MC 497

PTCD Seminar: Philosophy, Political Economy and Inequality Through the Lens of Adam Smith

Overview

All students in the Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy field are required to complete MC 497. The course serves as the “capstone” experience of your undergraduate study of PTCD: an in-depth study of a particular theorist, or a selected problem in, or approach to, the theory of constitutional democracy, highlighted by the opportunity for the student to engage in a significant paper project. The course also serves as a bridge between your undergraduate study and your life-long participation as citizens, policy makers, lawyers, etc. in a liberal democracy.

The uniqueness of the seminar lies in the assumption that *students take initiative and responsibility* for the material discussed and presented, to an event greater extent than in other JMC courses.

For each seminar meeting, you will prepare and participate.

For 12 seminar meetings, you will post before midnight a one-paragraph comment on the D2L discussion forum that includes both commentary on some point in the assigned reading for the next day’s class, and at least one direct question about the reading.

For one seminar meeting, you will: a) prepare a short paper and presentation introducing and directing student attention to key questions about the reading for one class period; b) present what you have prepared for that day; and c) Lead class discussion for the remainder of the first part of the seminar meeting after your presentation.

Evaluation

All course work will be graded on a percentage basis (out of 100%). On D2L, assignments and averages will ^{also} appear in percentages. Conversion to the university’s 4-point scale will follow this chart:

94-100%	4	67-73%	2
87-93%	3.5	60-66%	1.5
80-86%	3	50-59%	1
74-79%	2.5	<50%	0

Instructor: Ross B. Emmett
E-Mail: emmettr@msu.edu
Office: Case S304
Office Hours: MW 2:30 – 4:30pm

Required Reading

Smith, Adam. *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Ryan Hanley, ed. Penguin.

Smith, Adam. *Wealth of Nations*. George Stigler and Edwin Canaan, eds. University of Chicago Press.

Otteson, Jim. (2013). *Adam Smith*. London: Bloomsbury,

Requirements

D2L Discussion Forum [min. req.]

Details on D2L

Reading Paper [15%]

Details on D2L

Short Paper [20%]

Details on D2L

Research Paper [35%]

Details on D2L

Research Presentation [10%]

Details on D2L

Participation [20%]

Details on D2L

Responses to 3 Presentations [min. req.]

Details on D2L
