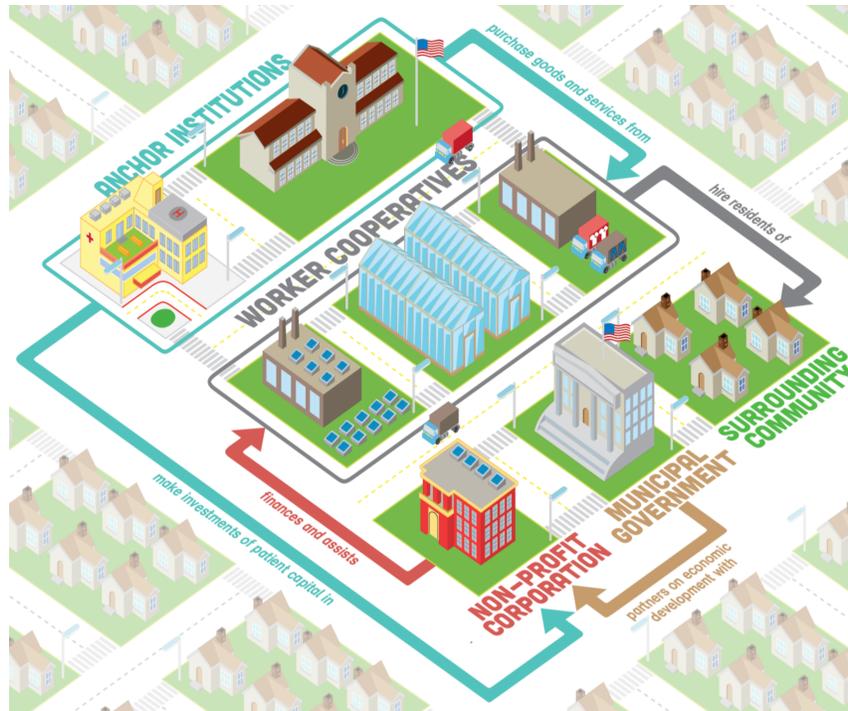


Philosophy of Economics: On Community Wealth Building Fourth Year Seminar Autumn, 2021



Course Description:

A radical socialist reconstruction of our economy is quietly under way. Community Wealth Building is the project of shifting economic power from states and the wealthy minority to workers and municipalities. Scotland is at the forefront of this movement, with projects underway in North Ayrshire, Argyll and Bute, Harris, Perth and Kinross, parts of Glasgow and Edinburgh, and elsewhere. In this course – perhaps the first of its kind – will examine the moral foundations of this model, partly by contrasting it with capitalist and socialist alternatives. We will read some of the intellectual history of the movement as well as writings by contemporary theorists and policymakers.

Personnel:

Course Secretary: Ms. Ann-Marie Cowe (philinfo@ed.ac.uk)

Course Organiser: Dr. Barry Maguire (bmaguire@ed.ac.uk)

Seminars: Mondays from 11.10am until 1pm.

Venue T.B.C. Please check LEARN for location and any updates.

Office Hours:

Barry Maguire, Tuesdays from 12.00 – 1300, generally on Teams. To set up a slot at office hours, email me any time before 12 on the relevant Tuesday morning.

Course Structure:

This is a fourth year seminar. We meet for two hours of discussion each week. I will occasionally give some background or a quick overview of the reading. But I do not plan to prepare any lectures. You must come prepared with questions and arguments for discussion by the group.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be better able to:

- Explain key ideas and debates in this area of political economy, especially concerning the prospects for non-state-based reorganization of the economy.
- Relate, compare, and contrast the positions of various authors studied in the course.
- Think critically about value theoretic questions that bear on economic organization.
- Articulate arguments succinctly and clearly in an essay format.

Accessing Lectures & Readings

All readings will be available on the course's Resource List. Read more information on using Resource Lists [here](#).

Assessment:

There are two pieces of assessment for this course:

- Mid-term essay (maximum 1600 words) (40%): Due Thursday 28th October, by 12pm
- Final essay (maximum 2500 words) (60%): Due Thursday 2nd December, by 12pm

More information about the expectations for the essays will be posted on LEARN plenty of time in advance.

Marking Schemes:

For Philosophy-specific marking guidelines go here:

[Grade-related marking guidelines for Philosophy](#)

For the University's general marking scheme go here:

[Common Marking Scheme](#)

Learning Resources

You should regularly check your university email and check for announcements on the course Learn page. Sometimes, there will also be announcements and discussion on TEAMS. The course Learn page will provide information concerning:

- General information and announcement about the course
- Seminar arrangements
- Information about assessment arrangements

Reading Philosophy:

There is a lot of reading in this course. But it could have been a lot longer! Everything on this syllabus has been carefully chosen. Read each piece a few times. Read once, quickly, to get the structure of the argument, the main claims, and the conclusion(s). Read a second time to study the argument more carefully, to formulate the argument in your own words, to think up your own examples to illustrate the main claims, and to think of counterexamples to these claims. Read a third time to soak up any remaining details. Some excellent reading advice can be found online here: www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading. You are encouraged to read anything else that interests you, especially other chapters in the assigned books. In general, the more you read, the better a sense you will have of the strengths and weaknesses of prominent views in any given topic, and of typical forms of argument in the area.

Writing Philosophy:

Please read Jim Pryor's 'How to Write a Philosophy Paper' ten times. Also read George Orwell's 'Politics and the English Language,' and Angela Mendelovici's 'A Sample Philosophy Paper.' Do not infer from the fact that someone is a great philosopher that it is permissible for you to try to write like they do.

Questions?

For all general questions about the course please use the GENERAL COURSE QUESTIONS discussion forum. This includes questions about the Learn page, availability of lectures and readings and general academic matters. Before you post, look in the forum to see if someone already posted the same question. Questions will be answered regularly, throughout the week.

For administrative questions (e.g. about submission of assignments), you should contact the Course Secretary. If you have a question regarding specific lecture content you should ask it - in the lecture Q&A discussion - in your tutorial group - during (online) office hours.

If you have a question about specifically academic matters that pertains only to you (e.g. special circumstances) contact the Course Organiser via email.

Optional Background Reading:

Community Wealth Building, A History.

- Read online here: <https://cles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CWB-a-history-FINAL2.pdf>
- Podcast: https://cles.org.uk/blog/podcast-community-wealth-building-a-history/?mc_cid=13a0988ddb&mc_eid=93bc354016

Owning the Economy, Community Wealth Building 2020:

- Read online here: <https://cles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Community-Wealth-Building-2020-final-version.pdf>

The Manifesto for Local Economies:

- Read online here: <https://cles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Manifesto-FINAL.pdf>

Christine Berry, 'After Corbynomics'

Joe Guinan, 'Democracy and decentralisation are their watchwords: for Corbyn and McDonnell, it's municipal socialism reinvented'

G.D.H. Cole, *Guild Socialism* and *Guild Socialism Restated*

Thomas Piketty, *Capitalism and Ideology*, especially chapters 10 – 13 and 17

And some good general introductions to political economy:

Satz, Hausman, and McPherson, *Economic Analysis, Moral Philosophy, and Public Policy*

Geffrey Schneider, et al, Introduction to Political Economy

The Core Team, *The Economy, Economics for a Changing World*, available as a book or online here: <https://www.core-econ.org/>

Required Weekly Readings

Warning: Subject to Change with Plenty of Advance Warning

Unit One: Setting the Scene:

Week One:

- Mary Robertson, 'Left Economics from Below?'
- Joe Guinan and Martin O'Neill, *The Case for Community Wealth Building*, Chapter One: What is Community Wealth Building?

Week Two:

- Kali Akuno and Ajamu Nangwaya, *Jackson Rising: The Struggle for Economic Democracy and Black Self-Determination in Jackson, Mississippi*. Parts 2-4

Unit Two: Intellectual Background

Week Three: Hardie

- Keir Hardie, *From Serfdom to Socialism*, chapters 2 (Municipal Socialism), 3 (Socialism and the State), and 5 (Socialism and the Worker)

Week Four: Cole

- GD.H. Cole, *Guild Socialism Restated*, chapters 1 (The Demand for Freedom), 2 (The Basis for Democracy), and 3 (A Guild in Being)

Week Five: Bookchin & Lenin

- Murray Bookchin, Libertarian Municipalism, an overview:
Online here:
http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/anarchist_archives/bookchin/gp/perspectives24.html

- Vladimir Lenin: Municipalisation of the Land and Municipal Socialism
Online here:
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1907/agrprogr/ch04s7.htm>

Week Six: Pateman

- Carole Pateman, *Participation and Democratic Theory*, chapters 3 (The sense of political efficacy and participation in the workplace), and 4 ('Participation' and 'democracy' in industry)

Unit Three: Practice

Week Seven: Economics of CWB

- Emily Sladek, 'The Transformative Power of Anchor Institutions': <https://community-wealth.org/content/urban-and-metropolitan-universities-transformative-power-anchor-institutions>
- Philip B. Whyman, 'The Economics of the Preston Model' and 'Economic Democracy and Economic Development', both in *The Preston Model and Community Wealth Building*

Week Eight: Cultural Conditions

- Hilary Abell, 'Seizing the Moment: Catalyzing Big Growth for Worker Cooperatives'
- Caitlin Quigley, 'Creating a Corporate Culture'
Both in *Scaling Up the Cooperative Movement*
- Esteban del Rio and John Loggins, 'Aligning Equity, Engagement, and Social Innovation in Anchor Initiatives'
<https://journals.iupui.edu/index.php/muj/article/view/22377>

Week Nine: Industrial Epistemology, the Case of Pharmacy in Scotland

- Crossan, Lane, and White, 'An Organizational Learning Framework: From Intuition to Institution'

- Documents on pharmacy managerial structures in Scotland, to be uploaded to Learn nearer the time

Unit Four: The Case for Community Wealth Building

Week Ten:

- Guinan and O'Neill, *The Case for Community Wealth Building*, Chapters Two and Three

Week Eleven:

- Consolidation of arguments for and against CWB