

COURSE DETAIL

THE ETHICS OF CAPITALISM

Country

Australia

Host Institution

University of Melbourne

Program(s)

University of Melbourne

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science Philosophy Economics

UCEAP Course Number

144

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

THE ETHICS OF CAPITALISM

UCEAP Transcript Title

ETHIC OF CAPITALISM

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course examines major figures of liberal political philosophy (Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill), and their defense of capitalism as a route to a more just and efficient society. It will look at whether it's fair for the Australian government to force people to take jobs they don't want while others inherit larger fortunes tax-free, whether employers have power over workers akin to authoritarian dictators, whether it should be illegal to sell human organs to save lives, and what role the assessment of capitalism should have in coming to terms with the history of colonialism in Australia and elsewhere. It'll also examine the role of markets in generating and distributing the coronavirus vaccine we desperately need, and what ought to be done to address the economic consequences of the pandemic.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

PHIL20044

Host Institution Course Title

THE ETHICS OF CAPITALISM

Host Institution Course Details

<https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/subjects/phil20044/print>

Host Institution Campus

Parkville

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Philosophy

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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