

## BEST PRACTICES SYLLABUS

# Ethics of Liberty

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*Note: The following best practices syllabus was created using a compilation of the teaching strategies of the Henry Hazlitt Center professors whose students obtained the best performance results per theme including corresponding concepts. Mastery was determined using average test scores per theme, and was compared with teacher evaluation scores based on surveys completed by students.*

## THEME AND CONCEPT LIST

- 1. Ethics and morals**
  - a. Introduction to liberalism
  - b. Ends and means
  - c. Value
  - d. Virtue
  - e. Self-interest
  - f. Altruism
  - g. Benevolence and charity
- 2. Socialism**
  - a. The ethics of socialism
  - b. Collectivism
  - c. Interventionism
  - d. Functions of government
  - e. Equality and inequality
  - f. Redistribution
- 3. Liberalism and capitalism**
  - a. The ethics of liberalism
  - b. Capitalism
- 4. The morals of freedom**
  - a. Ethics and rights
  - b. Freedom
  - c. Peace
  - d. Private property
- 5. Human action**
- 6. Market**

7. **Justice**
  - a. Law and mandate
8. **State and government**
  - a. Limited and unlimited government
  - b. Democracy
  - c. Republic
  - d. Political power and coercion
9. **Law**
  - a. Natural law
  - b. Positivism
10. **Liberal economic policy**

## DESCRIPTION BY THEME

### 1. Ethics and morals

#### SUMMARY

Ethics: Brand of philosophy dedicated to studying rules of conduct that determine individual well being in the long term.

Morals: Standards of behavior that guide individuals' choices and actions.

#### MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To understand the concept of morality and its applications in day to day life
- To understand the Aristotelian concept of Eudaimonia
- To analyze utilitarian ethics
- To understand the role means and ends play in the determination of morality
- To distinguish between values and virtues
- To identify the virtues of well being in the long term
- To identify and comprehend the differences between self-interest and altruism

#### METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue
- Video presentations

- In-class participation dynamics
- Discussion and revision of relevant readings

## REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Ludwig von Mises: *Liberalismo*. 5a ed. 2007. El liberalismo. pp 25 - 28.
- Ludwig von Mises: *Liberalismo*. 5a ed. 2007. El bienestar social. pp 28 - 30.
- Ludwig von Mises: *Liberalismo*. 5a ed. 2007. El racionalismo. pp 30 - 32. Rand, Ayn. "Cap. 1 Filosofía: ¿Quién La Necesita?" *Filosofía: ¿quién La Necesita?* Buenos Aires: Grito Sagrado, 2009. Print.
- Henry, Hazlitt. "Cap. 3 El Criterio De La Moral." *Los Fundamentos De La Moral*. Trans. Jacobs Jorge. Guatemala: Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 2012. 11-14. Print.
- Henry, Hazlitt. "Cap.4 El placer como fin" *Los Fundamentos De La Moral*. Trans. Jacobs Jorge. Guatemala: Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 2012. 15-20. Print.
- Henry, Hazlitt. "Cap. 5 Satisfacción y felicidad" *Los Fundamentos De La Moral*. Trans. Jacobs Jorge. Guatemala: Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 2012. 24-27. Print.

## REFERENCES: AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

- Warren, Orbaugh. "Pensamiento De Ludwig Von Mises." *UFM New Media*. Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 13 Sept. 2011. Web. <<http://newmedia.ufm.edu/gsm/index.php?title=Orbaughpensamientomises>>. Ver sección Visión de Ludwig von Mises: El hombre, razonamiento, acción humana y la vida del hombre) <http://newmedia.ufm.edu/gsm/index.php?title=Orbaughpensamientomises>
- Warren, Orbaugh. "Pensamiento De Ludwig Von Mises." *UFM New Media*. Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 13 Sept. 2011. Web. <<http://newmedia.ufm.edu/gsm/index.php?title=Orbaughpensamientomises>>. Ver sección Ética: Largo plazo <http://newmedia.ufm.edu/gsm/index.php?title=Orbaughpensamientomises>
- "¿Qué es la ética? - Filosofía - Educatina." *YouTube*. Educatina, 12 Dec. 2011. Web. 24 Jan. 2016. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ\\_DWG34UOE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ_DWG34UOE)
- "Aristóteles y su ética - Filosofía - Educatina." *YouTube*. Educatina, 13 Feb. 2012. Web. (hasta minuto 5:14) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxZsxS-LC7Q>
- Warren, Orbaugh. "Importancia De Los Derechos Individuales." *UFM New Media*. U, 25 Oct. 2010. Web. Ver sección: Altruismo, Egoísmo <http://newmedia.ufm.edu/gsm/index.php?title=Orbaughindividuales>

## EVALUATION METHOD

- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written

## 2. Socialism

### SUMMARY

Social, moral, political, and economic system based on the subordination of the individual in society, according to Marxist theory.

### MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To identify the moral system behind socialism
- To understand the ethical basis of socialism
- To understand cases of socialism in history
- To identify the main characteristics of socialism

### METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue
- Presentation and analysis of videos and documentaries
- In-class participation dynamics
- Discussion and revision of relevant readings

### REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La meta del liberalismo. pp 33 - 36.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. Liberalismo y capitalismo. pp 36 - 40.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. Las raíces psicológicas del antiliberalismo. pp 40 - 45.

- Henry Hazlitt: Los Fundamentos de la Moral. 1a ed. 2012. Introducción. pp 1 - 6.
- Henry, Hazlitt. "Cap. 31 La ética del socialismo" *Los Fundamentos De La Moral*. Trans. Jacobs Jorge. Guatemala: Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 2012.309-323. Print.
- Mises, Ludwig Von. "Cap. 31 El Socialismo Y La Moral." *Socialismo: Análisis Económico Y Sociológico*. 4th ed. Madrid: Unión Editorial, 2003. 395-403. Print.
- Henry Hazlitt: Los Fundamentos de la Moral. 1a ed. 2012. Igualdad y desigualdad. pp 249 - 251.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La igualdad. pp 59 - 62.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La desigualdad de riqueza y renta. pp 63 - 65.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La propiedad privada y la ética. pp 65 - 67.

## REFERENCES: AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

- "Heaven on Earth: The Rise and Fall of Socialism : Free Download & Streaming : Internet Archive." *Internet Archive*. PBS, June 2005. Web. <<https://archive.org/details/HeavenOnEarthTheRiseAndFallOfSocialism>>. <https://archive.org/details/HeavenOnEarthTheRiseAndFallOfSocialism>
- "Venezuelan Shoppers Confront Rationing, Shortages." *VOA*. 19 Aug. 2010. Web. <http://www.voanews.com/content/venezuelan-shoppers-confront-rationing-shortages-101106039/124202.html>
- Lee, Hyeonseo. "My Escape from North Korea." *Hyeonseo Lee*:. TED, Feb. 2013. Web. 24 Jan. 2016. [http://www.ted.com/talks/hyeonseo\\_lee\\_my\\_escape\\_from\\_north\\_korea#](http://www.ted.com/talks/hyeonseo_lee_my_escape_from_north_korea#)

## EVALUATION METHOD

- Essays on topic
- Reading reports
- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written

## 3. Liberalism and capitalism

### SUMMARY

In this section of the course, students will understand societal dynamics present in capitalist regimes, that relate to libertarian principles. They will discuss basic concepts that define liberalism, and reflect on paradigms associated to both central themes. The true purpose of liberalism is understood as in favor of no single group, but in the interest of humanity as a whole.

### MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To understand the definition of liberalism and of capitalism, to establish differences and similarities
- To identify the principles that define liberalism
- To clarify paradigms related to capitalism
- To comprehend the psychological roots of anti-liberalism

### METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue
- Presentation and analysis of videos and documentaries
- In-class participation dynamics
- Discussion and revision of relevant readings

### REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Henry Hazlitt: Los Fundamentos de la Moral. 1a ed. 2012. Ética y ley. pp 61 - 68.
- Henry Hazlitt: Los Fundamentos de la Moral. 1a ed. 2012. Reglas de tránsito y reglas morales. pp 69 - 73.
- Henry Hazlitt: Los Fundamentos de la Moral. 1a ed. 2012. La ética del capitalismo. pp 287 - 308.

### EVALUATION METHOD

- Essays on topic

- Reading reports
- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written

## 4. The morals of freedom

### SUMMARY

Students will comprehend the bases of liberalism, as they are upheld in the values of liberty, peace, private property, and individual rights.

### MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To understand the concept of freedom under a libertarian perspective
- To comprehend the correlation between freedom and responsibility
- To understand the concept of peace under a libertarian perspective
- To understand the relationship between ends and social cooperation
- To analyze the causes of peaceful societies
- To understand the concept of property under a libertarian perspective
- To identify the individual as the main private property

### METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue
- Presentation and analysis of videos and documentaries
- In-class participation dynamics
- Discussion and revision of relevant readings

### REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Antón, Francisco Pérez De. "Parte 1. Los Fines." *La Libre Empresa: Una Introducción a Sus Fundamentos Morales, Jurídicos Y Económicos*. Madrid: Unión Editorial, 2004. 21-34. Print.
- Mises, Ludwig Von. "Cap.1 Los Fundamentos De Una Política Liberal." *Liberalismo: La Tradición Clásica*. Ed. León Barbero Julio César De. Madrid: Unión Editorial, 2011. 50-59. Print.

- Henry Hazlitt: Los Fundamentos de la Moral. 1a ed. 2012. Moral y modales. pp 75 - 79.
- Henry Hazlitt: Los Fundamentos de la Moral. 1a ed. 2012. Prudencia y benevolencia. pp 81 - 89.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. Los fundamentos de una política liberal. pp 47 - 49.
- Rushworth Kidder: ¿Cómo toman las buenas personas decisiones difíciles?. Capítulo 5. Bueno vs. Bueno: La naturaleza de los dilemas paradigmáticos. pp 99 - 117.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. Los fundamentos de una política liberal - La libertad.. pp 50 - 53.
- Henry Hazlitt: Los Fundamentos de la Moral. 1a ed. 2012. Libertad. pp 253 - 255.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La paz. pp 53 - 59.

## REFERENCES: AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

- Julio César De León Barbero. "Libertad: ¿es Relevante En Nuestra Sociedad?" *UFM New Media*. Universidad Francisco Marroquín. Web. 24 Jan. 2016. <<https://newmedia.ufm.edu/gsm/index.php?title=Deleonlibertad>>. Ver sección: Concepto de libertad, Elementos de la definición, el ámbito de la libertad <https://newmedia.ufm.edu/gsm/index.php?title=Deleonlibertad>

## EVALUATION METHOD

- Essays on topic
- Reading reports
- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written

## 5. Human action

### SUMMARY

¿What is the nature of human behavior? ¿What are the essential characteristics that define the way individuals act in a society? ¿Which main praxeological theorems are



important?

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To understand the anthropological principles behind Austrian School ideology
- To expand students' understanding of human condition
- To construct an anthropological base for the learning of economic principles

## METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue
- Presentation and analysis of videos and documentaries
- In-class participation dynamics
- Discussion and revision of relevant readings

## REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Ludwig von Mises: *Acción Humana*. 8a ed. 2007. *El hombre en acción*. pp 15 - 35.
- Henry Hazlitt: *Los Fundamentos de la Moral*. 1a ed. 2012. *Egoísmo, altruismo, mutualismo*. pp 91 - 104.
- Henry Hazlitt: *Los Fundamentos de la Moral*. 1a ed. 2012. *Fines y medios*. pp 125 - 134.
- Henry Hazlitt: *Los Fundamentos de la Moral*. 1a ed. 2012. *El problema del valor*. pp 153 - 168.

## REFERENCES: AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

- Video: *Equality against the law and equality of result*.

## EVALUATION METHOD

- Essays on topic
- Reading reports
- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written

# 6. Market

## SUMMARY

Market is a sum of thousands of free and willing transactions of private property between individuals, guided by a price system and individual value assignments. Free-market systems are based on the moral principles of freedom.

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To understand the market process
- To identify the moral basis of free-market systems
- To understand the moral basis of social cooperation and division of labor

## METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue
- Presentation and analysis of videos and documentaries
- In-class participation dynamics
- Discussion and revision of relevant readings
- Visit to Sumpango or Tecpán, in Guatemala

## REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Antón, Francisco Pérez De. "Parte 1. Los Fines." *La Libre Empresa: Una Introducción a Sus Fundamentos Morales, Jurídicos Y Económicos*. Madrid: Unión Editorial, 2004. 35-41. Print.
- Henry, Hazlitt. "Cap. 6 Cooperación social." *Los Fundamentos De La Moral*. Trans. Jacobs Jorge. Guatemala: Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 2012. 35-42. Print.
- Krause, M. "Cap. 4 La cooperación social". *La Economía explicada a mis hijos*. Buenos Aires: Aguilar, 2003. 57-64
- Antón, Francisco Pérez De. "Parte 3. Los medios económicos." *La Libre Empresa: Una Introducción a Sus Fundamentos Morales, Jurídicos Y Económicos*. Madrid: Unión Editorial, 2004. 115-149, 158-169. Print.
- Ludwig von Mises: *Acción Humana*. 8a ed. 2007. El mercado. pp 313 - 351, 380 - 394.

## REFERENCES: AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

- "La Benevolencia Del Mercado | Jeffrey Tucker." *YouTube*. MisesHispano, May 2014. Web. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oucAcWz8YnI>
- Boudreaux, Don. "Division of Labor: Burgers and Ships." *YouTube*. Marginal Revolution University, June 2014. Web. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Meo0s54s1sw>
- Stossel, John. "Stossel - Is Greed Good?" *YouTube*. Fox, 2013. Web. 24 Jan. 2016. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrH\\_9aBFbyQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrH_9aBFbyQ)

## EVALUATION METHOD

- Essays on topic
- Reading reports
- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written

## 7. Justice

### SUMMARY

¿What is justice? ¿What is its use? ¿What is its role in society? ¿What is NOT justice?

### MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To clarify terminology distinctions between: justice, equality, egalitarianism
- To understand the foundations of the legal proposal established by liberalism
- To understand justice in its association to processes, not results

### METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue
- Presentation and analysis of videos and documentaries
- In-class participation dynamics

- Discussion and revision of relevant readings

## REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Henry Hazlitt: Los Fundamentos de la Moral. 1a ed. 2012. Justicia. pp 237 - 248.
- Rushworth Kidder: ¿Cómo toman las buenas personas decisiones difíciles?. Principios de resolución. pp 143 - 169.

## EVALUATION METHOD

- Essays on topic
- Reading reports
- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written

# 8. State and government

## SUMMARY

Reflection on the functions and reach of the State. To establish a differentiation between the notion of state and the notion of government.

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To reflect on the extension of the State and its consequences
- To consider theoretical and operative alternatives to the prevailing notion of State
- To discuss and reflect over the legitimacy of roles that are attributed to government

## METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue
- Presentation and analysis of videos and documentaries
- In-class participation dynamics

- Discussion and revision of relevant readings

## REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. El estado y el gobierno. pp 67 - 72.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La democracia. pp 72 - 76.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. Crítica de la doctrina de la violencia. pp 76 - 81.

## EVALUATION METHOD

- Essays on topic
- Reading reports
- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written

## 9. Law

### SUMMARY

The students and professor will review how law is related to the purpose of justice, and allows societies to guarantee freedom. They will understand how law can turn into a harmful instrument, causing social expropriation. Students will study the circumstances both conducive and deterring to rule of law.

### MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To understand the role of law in the context of liberalism
- To understand the origins of natural law
- To understand iusnaturalism and positivism

### METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue

- Presentation and analysis of videos and documentaries
- In-class participation dynamics
- Discussion and revision of relevant readings

## REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Murray N. Rothbard: *La Ética de la Libertad*. 1995. La ley natural y la razón. pp 25 - 32.
- Murray N. Rothbard: *La Ética de la Libertad*. 1995. La ley natural como ciencia. pp 33 - 42.
- Murray N. Rothbard: *La Ética de la Libertad*. 1995. La ley natural frente a la ley política. pp 43 - 47.
- Murray N. Rothbard: *La Ética de la Libertad*. 1995. Ley natural y derechos naturales. pp 48 - 53.
- Murray N. Rothbard: *La Ética de la Libertad*. 1995. La misión de la filosofía política. pp 54 - 56.
- Ludwig von Mises: *Liberalismo*. 5a ed. 2007. El argumento del fascismo. pp 81 - 87.
- Ludwig von Mises: *Liberalismo*. 5a ed. 2007. Los límites de la actividad del gobierno. pp 87 - 91.
- Ludwig von Mises: *Liberalismo*. 5a ed. 2007. La tolerancia. pp 91 - 93.
- Ludwig von Mises: *Liberalismo*. 5a ed. 2007. El estado y los comportamientos antisociales. pp 94 - 96.
- Frédéric Bastiat: *La ley*.

## REFERENCES: AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

- Film. *The Lord of the Flies*.

## EVALUATION METHOD

- Essays on topic
- Reading reports
- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written

# 10. Liberal economic policy

## SUMMARY

Students will understand the basics behind possible systems of economic organization in a society based on the division of labor. They will explore how capitalists systems are defined, through the guarantee of private property of the means of production. They will comprehend the limited role government plays in liberal economic organization.

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To understand basic principles underlying liberal economic policy
- To define the economic policies related to free-market systems
- To define political strategy necessary to guarantee freedom in a society
- To understand the virtues of a free economy

## METHODOLOGY

- Socratic dialogue
- Presentation and analysis of videos and documentaries
- In-class participation dynamics
- Discussion and revision of relevant readings

## REFERENCES: READINGS AND LITERATURE

- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La organización de la economía. pp 97 - 101.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La propiedad privada y sus críticos. pp 101 - 106.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. Propiedad privada y gobierno. pp 106 - 109.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La invisibilidad del socialismo. pp 109 - 116.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. El intervencionismo. pp 116 - 127.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. El capitalismo es el único sistema

posible de relaciones sociales. pp 128 - 134.

- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. Los Estados Unidos de Europa. pp 198 - 204.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. La sociedad de naciones. pp 204 - 208.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. Rusia. pp 208 - 211.
- Murray N. Rothbard: La Ética de la Libertad. 1995. La estrategia de la libertad. pp 345 - 367.
- Ludwig von Mises: Liberalismo. 5a ed. 2007. El futuro del liberalismo. pp 253 - 259.

## **EVALUATION METHOD**

- Essays on topic
- Reading reports
- In-class participation
- Midterm testing, written
- Final testing, written