

## “Capitalism, For and Against: A University Seminar”

**“Morals and Markets” meets at 8PM Eastern  
on the *fourth Tuesday of every mid-quarter month.***

Add to your calendar! Tell your friends!



### Course Information:

[www.atlassociety.org/events/morals-markets-presents-capitalism-for-and-against-a-university-seminar](http://www.atlassociety.org/events/morals-markets-presents-capitalism-for-and-against-a-university-seminar)

**Next Session:** Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 8-9:30 ET

**Meeting url:** <https://atlassociety-org.zoom.us/joining/register/tZwtdeiqrT0iEtGEjthETqt6bKjuI9AiOPKl#/registration>

### Previous Sessions:

<https://www.atlassociety.org/atlas-university/morals-and-markets>

Social science faculty at top-tier American universities typically lean leftward ideologically and thus don't present a case for capitalism. For the past five years at Duke University, I've conducted a popular seminar for first-year students which assesses both the pros and cons of capitalism. In this session I recount the seminar's origins, share the syllabus, review the readings, and convey some student reactions. The seminar's introduction reads as follows: "Capitalism is a formidable and durable social system worthy of scientific, objective study. Only three centuries old, it has both proponents and opponents, each wielding strong and weak arguments. In this seminar we investigate, analyze, and debate the nature of capitalism and assess the validity (or not) of various pro-con claims."

### Suggested Readings/Sources:

- Salsman, Richard M. “Capitalism, For and Against” (Duke Syllabus) – PDF
- Salsman, Richard M. “Three Questions for Friends and Foes of Capitalism” – PDF

**Host:** Dr. Richard M. Salsman is an [assistant research professor of political economy at Duke University](#), founder and [president of InterMarket Forecasting, Inc.](#), a [senior fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research](#), and a [senior scholar at The Atlas Society](#). In the 1980s and 1990s he was a banker at the Bank of New York and Citibank and an economist at Wainwright Economics, Inc. Dr. Salsman has authored three books: *Breaking the Banks: Central Banking Problems and Free Banking Solutions* (1990), *Gold and Liberty* (1995), and *The Political Economy of Public Debt: Three Centuries of Theory and Evidence* (2017). His latest book, *Where Have all the Capitalist Gone? Essays in Moral Political Economy*, was published in 2021 by the American Institute for Economic Research. He is also author of a dozen chapters and scores of articles. His work has appeared in the *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *Reason Papers*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, the *Economist*, the *Financial Post*, the *Intellectual Activist*, and *The Objective Standard*. Dr. Salsman earned his B.A. in economics from Bowdoin College (1981), his M.A. in economics from New York University (1988), and his Ph.D. in political economy from Duke University (2012). His personal website is <https://richardsalsman.com/>.

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THE ATLAS SOCIETY

# — Morals and Markets —

Exploring the intersections between ethics, politics, economics, and markets



Dr. Richard M. Salsman

## — Testimonials

"Morals & Markets provides students of all levels an opportunity to engage with some of the most interesting (and sometimes difficult!) issues in philosophy, politics, and economics. Professor Salsman's experience as an outstanding educator and commitment to presenting a holistic view of contemporary tensions between public policy and moral philosophy encourage vibrant debate and an unparalleled learning experience. I am enthusiastic about Dr. Salsman's future iterations of Morals & Markets with the support of The Atlas Society!"

- **Nikhil Sridhar**

"Dr. Salsman's lectures from Morals and Markets always leave me with a newfound framework to consider important ideas; they serve as some beacon of critical thinking in a world that needs it. The topics discussed are always fully engaging, both intellectually and practically and the discussion helps me orient my views of current political circumstances, historical trends, and political philosophy, more generally, in a rationally focused way. I hope Morals and Markets grows to become an institution – it certainly deserves to be one."

- **Clifford Gilman Jr.**

"Morals and Markets has been a spectacular learning experience for me. Professor Salsman's lectures and guided discussions have opened my eyes to alternative ways of viewing issues and generally strengthened my grasp of the intersections between philosophy, politics, and economics."

- **Gaurav Sharma**