

Center for a Stateless Society

Foundational Certificate in Anarchist Theory and Practice

ATP 101 An Introduction to Anarchism

Instructor

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to help ground you in the basic principles of anarchism. Its focus will be on market anarchism—that is, on the family of approaches to anarchism that assume the legitimacy of property rights and free exchange. But it is designed more broadly to give you a sense of how anarchists of multiple varieties think about human problems and envision solutions to these problems without the interference of the state.

By the conclusion of the course, you should be able to:

1. identify and evaluate key anarchist arguments against the justice and desirability of the state;
2. comprehend, analyze, and evaluate a sample of anarchist proposals for facilitating voluntary, cooperative solutions to social problems; and
3. synthesize and defend an initial proposal for an effective response to a clearly delimited social problem people would likely confront in a stateless society.

Text

The principal text for the course will be:

Tannehill, Morris, and Tannehill, Linda. *The Market for Liberty*. 3rd ed.
San Francisco, CA: Fox 1993. 978-0930073084.
http://libertyactivism.info/wiki/The_Market_for_Liberty

This is by no means the only introductory book about anarchism available. It is not the only book about market anarchism available. Its virtues are clarity, accessibility, and provocative language. It is also a book that has played a key role in attracting many people to anarchism; it is thus important historically as well as conceptually.

We encourage you to bring any and all arguments and sources to the discussion table.

Some starting points for your consideration:

Websites:

<http://invisiblemolotov.wordpress.com/>,
http://libertyactivism.info/wiki/Main_Page,
<http://www.corvusdistribution.org/shop/>,
<http://theanarchistlibrary.org/>,
<http://praxeology.net/anarcres.htm#heritage>,
<http://www.katesharpleylibrary.net/>.

Books:

Anarchy in Action by Colin Ward,
Anarchism by George Woodcock,
Anarchy by Errico Malatesta,
Men Against the State by James L. Martin,
Demanding the Impossible by Peter Marshall,
A Short History of Anarchism by Max Nettlau.

Evaluation

Your final grade should be dependent on your confidence and creativity with respect to the subject matter of the course. We will be providing you with different options to test and challenge your knowledge of anarchism. Needless to say, you will not receive as much benefit from any work you submit that is not clearly your own.

Critiques Each week of the course will isolate a section of the text that we will focus on for criticism. There will be an accompanying question on which to concentrate your critique and application of anarchism. You can upload your critique to the class website or email them to my C4SS address. It is encouraged that you blog your reactions and reflections about the course and text, but it is not mandatory (It's anarchy, nothing is mandatory). For reasons of time and availability it is requested that critiques be between 500 and 600 words long. Your critique should offer a careful, reflective, analytically rigorous answer to the question on which it focuses; it need not draw on any published source.

Participation A class discussion will be made available for students twice a week:

- *Primary Meeting: Sundays @ 6PM Central;*
- *Alt Meeting: Tuesdays @ 6PM Central.*

Participation in the chat is optional, but encouraged. The chat is there for you to improve your skills for evaluating and responding to various approaches and questions dealing with anarchism. Needless to say, all comments should be respectful and offer thoughtful responses to comments/questions made by the instructor and class members.

Analyses By the end of the course we challenge each student to write two news related articles. The first article should test your ability to identify state violations of anarchist principles; and the second article should challenge your understanding of those principles by proposing an anarchist solution to a state institution. The articles can be of any length (between 150 to 400 words is fine, for those who like to work with a budget), so long as they are clear and hard hitting; please cite an electronic or print source. The Center, with your expressed permission and aliases can be made available, would like to publish any of these articles in a Rising Star section of the C4SS site.

Reflections Students preparing to continue on to more advanced C4SS classes or who are looking for more in-depth study of anarchist theory we recommended that you reflect, in writing or discussion, on the following topics: "What is a market?" "What is an institution?" "What is spontaneous order?" "What is oppression?" "What is property?" "What is fairness?" "What is a class?" "What is law?"

Grading	We request that you evaluate the instructor of this class and assign a grade of Honors, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory in the presentation and facilitation of the course. Your grade will be self assigned, either <i>Confident</i> or <i>N/A</i> , reflecting your confidence and creativity with regards to basic anarchist theory and ability to fruitfully engage in following C4SS courses.
Schedule	It is encouraged that you participate in each week's class discussion and that you are prepared to discuss the sections isolated.
<i>Week 1</i>	Before this week's class, you should read Tannehill and Tannehill (TnT) pages 1-15. A critique should address the question: <i>What is aggression? How can we distinguish between aggression and other kinds of undesirable influence?</i>
<i>Week 2</i>	Before this week's class, you should read TnT pages 16-42. A critique should focus on the question: <i>To what extent and in what ways, if any, does government exhibit the problems typical of other monopolies?</i>
<i>Week 3</i>	Before this week's class, you should read TnT pages 44-64. A critique should focus on the question: <i>Is taxation theft? Why or why not?</i>
<i>Week 4</i>	Before this week's class, you should read TnT pages 65-87. This would be an ideal point in the course to begin your first News Article, identifying a state violations of anarchist principles. A critique should focus on the question: <i>In what way or ways would it be most difficult for insurance companies to function successfully as sources of justice and defense against aggression?</i>
<i>Week 5</i>	Before this week's class, you should read TnT pages 88-108. A critique should focus on the question: <i>Is restitution preferable to retribution? Why or why not?</i>
<i>Week 6</i>	Before this week's class, you should read TnT pages 109-25. A critique should focus on the question: <i>Would private for-profit or not-for-profit providers of defensive services go to war with each other in a stateless society? Why or why not?</i>
<i>Week 7</i>	Before this week's class, you should read TnT pages 126-48. A critique should focus on the question: <i>Would the risk that people from one society would attack another be greater in the absence of the state than they are given the state's existence? Why or why not?</i>
<i>Week 8</i>	Before this week's class, you should read TnT pages 150-69. This would be an ideal point in the course to begin your second News Article, proposing an anarchist solution to a state institution.. A critique should focus on the question: <i>What is the fairest and most effective way of removing property from the control of the state?</i>

About The Foundational Certificate

This course is the first of a sequence of classes leading to the Foundational Certificate in Anarchist Theory and Practice offered by the Center for a Stateless Society. Successful completion of ATP 101 will equip you to enroll in ATP 102 Law and Order in a Stateless Society.

About The Instructor

James Tuttle is a Left-Libertarian Market Anarchist, Co-Editor of the Left-Libertarian journal ALLiance, Friend of Corvus Editions and a dues paying Fellow Worker of the Industrial Workers of the World. He believes that justice and fairness share a dialectical relationship, which means that both can find full expression within a social context without contradiction or compromise. He operates along an individualistic, supply-sided, virtue ethic that is grounded in Aristotelian categories. He regards the principle of non-aggression as hollow or brittle if it is not united to and guided by a principle of non-oppression. His banner is the black flag and across its uncorrupted field you will discover the watchwords: Liberty, Equality, and Solidarity!

My short list of historical influences: Jacob Burckhardt, Herbert Spencer, F.A. Hayek, Alvin Gouldner, Franz Oppenheimer, Malcolm X, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

My short list of anarchist influences: Voltairine de Cleyre, Gustav Landauer, Benjamin Tucker, Dyer Lum, Errico Malatesta, Lysander Spooner, Gertrude B. Kelly..

My short list of contemporary influences: George H. Smith, Roderick Long, Gary Chartier, Charles Johnson, Kevin Carson, Chris Sciabarra, Shawn Wilbur.