

# Ecological Irrationality, Public and Private

O'Neil Center Advanced Undergraduate Reading Group Syllabus

Spring 2020

Primary Readings:

Bryan Caplan. 2007. *The Myth of the Rational Voter*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Ryan H. Murphy. 2020. *Markets against Modernity: Ecological Irrationality, Public and Private*. Lanham: Lexington Books.

1. Caplan I

Caplan Introduction and Chapters 1-2, pages 1-49

2. Caplan II

Caplan Chapters 3-4, p. 50-113

3. Caplan III

Caplan Chapters 5-6, p. 114-165

4. Caplan IV

Caplan Chapters 7-8 and Conclusion, p. 166-209

Loren Lomasky. 2008. "Swing and a Myth: A Review of Caplan's 'The Myth of the Rational Voter.'" *Public Choice* 135, no. 3/4: 469-484

5. The Obvious and Simple System of *Unnatural* Liberty.

Murphy Chapters 1-3, pages 1-42

Paul Rubin. 2003. "Folk Economics." *Southern Economic Journal* 70, no. 1: 151-171

Bryan Caplan. 2008. "Reply to My Critics." *Critical Review* 20, no. 3: 377-413. **SKIM THIS.**

6. Ecological Irrationality in the Wild and Bohemian Status-archy.

Murphy Chapters 4-5, p. 43-76

Andrew Potter. 2006. "Conspicuous Authenticity." In *The Authenticity Hoax: How We Get Lost Finding Ourselves*. New York: HarperCollins, p. 103-135.

7. Anarchy, State, and Dystopia.

Murphy Chapter 6, p. 77-98

Bryan Caplan. 2012. "Why Is Democracy Tolerable? Evidence from Affluence and Influence." *Econlog*, [https://www.econlib.org/archives/2012/09/why\\_is\\_democrac.html](https://www.econlib.org/archives/2012/09/why_is_democrac.html)

Sean Illing. 2018. "Epistocracy: A Political Theorist's Case for Letting Only the Informed Vote." *Vox*, <https://www.vox.com/2018/7/23/17581394/against-democracy-book-epistocracy-jason-brennan>

Robin Hanson. "Futarchy: Vote Values, But Bet Beliefs," <http://mason.gmu.edu/~rhanson/futarchy.html>

Peter Leeson. "Anarchy Unbound." In *Anarchy Unbound: Why Self-Governance Works Better Than You Think*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-15.

Alex Salter. 2016. "Political Property Rights and Governance Outcomes: A Theory of the Corporate Polity." *Journal of Private Enterprise* 31, no. 4: 1-20.

8. Too Much Social Capital and The Poverty of DIYism.

Murphy Chapters 7-8, p. 99-128

Robert Putnam. 1993. "Social Capital and Institutional Success." In *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, p. 163-185.

Mark Lutter. 2016. "Pokemon Coming Together: The Revival of American Civic Culture." *The Daily Caller*, <https://dailycaller.com/2016/07/11/pokemon-coming-together-the-revival-of-american-civic-culture/>

Adam Ozimeck. 2017. "Dear Homesteaders: Self Reliance is a Delusion." *Forbes*, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/modeledbehavior/2017/07/29/the-delusion-of-self-reliant-off-the-grid-living/#5b441008343d>

## 9. Social Luddism.

Murphy Chapter 9, p. 129-146.

John Bohannon, Robin Goldstein, and Alexis Herschkowitsch. 2010. "Can People Distinguish Pate from Dog Food?" *Chance* 23, no. 2: 43-46.

Amy E. Boyle. 2007. "Ray Bradbury: Fahrenheit 451 Misinterpreted." *LA Weekly*, <https://www.laweekly.com/ray-bradbury-fahrenheit-451-misinterpreted/>

Steve Inskeep. 2005. "Books: 'Everything Bad Is Good For You.'" *NPR*, <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4663852>

Cathy O'Neil. 2017. "Why We Need Accountable Algorithms." *Cato Unbound*, <https://www.cato-unbound.org/2017/08/07/cathy-oneil/why-we-need-accountable-algorithms>

Caleb Watney. 2017. "Fairy Dust, Pandora's Box... or a Hammer." *Cato Unbound*, <https://www.cato-unbound.org/2017/08/09/caleb-watney/fairy-dust-pandoras-box-or-hammer>

## 10. Whither Expertise? and Conclusion.

Murphy Chapter 10, Conclusion, and Appendix, p. 147-176.

Peter Boettke. 2018. "Economics and Public Administration." *Southern Economic Journal* 84, no. 4: 938-959.