

ETHICS AND MORALITY IN A CAPITALIST SYSTEM (200)

Mondays, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (3 Classes 2/17 – 3/3) in Room 30

Tuition \$30

Walk-in \$12 Pay prior to the class in the Center 4Life Learning office.

A society that relies on markets within a capitalist system generally will produce more goods and services for its members than a society where most decisions are made by a governing body, often unelected by its members. But a question that constantly arises is whether such a system can be judged as deficient in terms of accepted moral standards. One criticism is that capitalism leads to selfishness by encouraging individuals to only focus on what is best for them. Another criticism is that by fostering an attitude of selfishness, community relationships are frayed. Finally, a capitalist system leads to the concentration of economic power where those who hold such power not only create greater inequalities of wealth and income but have the means to influence any government oversight that attempts to control their behavior. This course will discuss all of these issues. Are the criticisms fair and accurate? If so, what can society do to improve our economic system so that it is perceived as not only more productive but also lives up to our moral and ethical standards?

Frank Slesnick, PhD is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at Bellarmine University, where he taught for 30 years. He is Vice-Chair of the Center 4Life Learning and has lived in Kings Point for a number of years.