

Homework for 2327 Fall 2012

Write up to 400 words (one or two pages, use word count and show word count in HMW essay, HMW essay can be longer in page count if you are using graphics). Choose **one** of the below topics for your HMW essay:

Option 1) Why does Milton Friedman (in 1962's *Capitalism and Freedom*, essay "Monopoly and the Social Responsibility of Business and Labor") state that the only goal of a company is to seek a profit? Do you agree with this, why or why not? Why does Friedman argue for the profit-motive? Why does Friedman seek a change in the income tax code as-is relating to social responsibility? How does this relate to his vision of corporate social responsibility and individual and decentralized decisions regarding philanthropic behavior? What are your views as opposed to Friedman on social responsibility (or do you agree with him about everything), why or why not are you in agreement with Friedman's ideas on business and society? Please do get specific, analytic and beyond accepted wisdom in your responses. In addition, please use one or two additional (scholarly¹) resources to help make the points in your essay.

Option 2) How and why does Armentano (in 1978's "A Critique of Neoclassical and Austrian Monopoly Theory", in Louis M. Spadaro, editor 1978) criticize both the neoclassical and Austrian definitions of monopoly? What are his specific problems with each definition? Do you agree with his analysis, why or why not? Also, what might international competition have to do with any domestic definitions of monopoly? In addition, please use one or two additional (scholarly) resources to help make the points in your essay.

Option 3) In class we have addressed the issue of how scarce economic resources are allocated in society. Is it 'experts' deciding backed by the monopoly coercion power of government or is it that that of the 'consumer sovereignty' of the market? Where do you fall on this divide and why? Or do you think that this is an overly general question? Can you give examples where you think experts should decide versus autonomous consumers? And likewise other reasons why consumers should decide? Is there really a trade-off between equality and efficiency? Give specific examples on why and where you fall on this argument, and any subtleties missing in this discourse. Please do get specific, analytic and beyond accepted wisdom in your responses. In addition, please use one or two additional (scholarly) resources to help make the points in your essay.

¹ Scholarly resources are peer-reviewed journal articles and books on academic presses, on-line dictionaries and encyclopedias if the author's name and credentials are given as is the name of the on-line source publisher, and think-tank publications who have not-for-profit status. Blogs and wiki are not acceptable as the first is mostly off-the-cuff opinion and the second is anonymous.