Political Theory of Finance Readings

Steven Klein, Department of Political Economy, King’s College London

Week 1 – Introduction to the Political Theory of Finance

Required Reading


Week 2 – Foundations: The History of Debates About Finance

Required Reading


Suggested Reading

Aristotle, Politics, Book I.8-10 (on money-making)

Aquinas, Summa Theologica, “Of the Sin of Usury”

Jeremy Bentham, “Defense of Usury”


Week 3 – Foundations: Money, Credit, and the State

Required Reading

Alexander X. Douglas, The Philosophy of Debt, Part III and IV

Suggested Reading


**Week 4 – The Right to Access Credit Markets**

*Required Reading*


*Suggested Reading*


**Week 5 - Structural Injustice in Credit Markets**

*Required Reading*


*Suggested Reading*


**Week 6 – Reading Week**

**Week 7 – The 2008 Financial Crisis**

*Required Reading*


*Suggested Reading*


Adam Tooze, *Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crisis Changed the World* (Penguin, 2019)


**Week 8 – Systemic Risk**

*Required Reading*


**Suggested Reading**


**Week 9 – Central Banks**

**Required Reading**


**Suggested Reading**


**Week 10 – From Cryptocurrencies to Public Banking**

*Required Reading*


*Suggested Reading*


**Week 11 - Finance and Debt from a Global Perspective**

*Required Reading*


Suggested Reading


