

## STUDENT COMMENTS

This economics course has been an eye opener. I've learned many things that made me realize that the beliefs I had may have been wrong all along. During the Lesson on Capitalism & Socialism, I could've sworn I sided with a socialist government, believing it prioritized their people but I didn't have my facts straight. Turns out, I was able to relate to the "Hates Capitalism but Loves Capitalism" meme of the girl in the beginning of the lesson, I was a hypocrite. I believed that a capitalist government only cared about money when in reality, capitalism benefits the people. By comparing the pros and cons of each in this lesson, it allowed me to decide who I truly sided with and why. The examples provided showed how socialism limits our abilities in order to remain equal to others, while capitalism allows us each to live a life based on our decisions. Of course capitalism has its negatives (job instability & wealth inequality), but it does give us the liberty to choose. We can be financially successful if we work for it. Capitalism gives us high quality products, it brings us many benefits and most importantly, it helps make our lives easier! The Lesson has got to be my favorite.

This economics class has made me want to major in it. I started this course pretty close-minded, I assumed it'd be boring and difficult but in reality it was the complete opposite. Interesting + fun and smooth. I'd like to take this moment to thank you, Professor Brown, for your lessons! They were very informative and entertaining, always looked forward to them.

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In your class, I realized I was more a republican then democratic. This whole time I have been siding with the democratic side and did not quite understand why I was for the democratic party.

Thank you for clearly presenting the difference between capitalism and socialism, republic and democratic parties. I am truly for allowing economic changes, advancement on merit, and people having the right to choose what they do and what they do with their life. Also, the advancement of technology that is always changing the way we live and shapes the future. Once my kids are out of school I plan to travel and live abroad so understanding the difference will help in the future of choosing where I want to visit.

Understanding the difference will also help with voting going forward and understanding the candidates' views a bit more. I really enjoyed this course and the material, your style of teaching and the layout of this course. It was great to have your view; your material was not one-sided, and very informative. I enjoyed reading your end-of-lesson rants it was a great way to go off topic and still be on topic.

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The class has opened up my thinking on how economists think and how the economy operates. One of the lessons that I found interesting is capitalism and socialism. I have always thought that socialism was better as it would lead to more equitability in earnings in the society. My thoughts before the class was that socialism can help deal with issues related with unemployment to a great extent and the government can control prices. My thoughts were that a country like China is doing well economically as a result of socialism and assuming that disparity in wealth are avoided, then every person in the country would be okay. However, I only came to realize that I was wrong in the assumptions I was making about socialism. There is no initiative to work as there is no reward from the hard work that someone puts in his or her operations. A capitalist system is also beneficial to consumers as they have more choices of products. This means that their needs and expectations are always met. Innovation rules the day in a capitalist system. This means that the companies have to constantly innovate if they are to effectively satisfy the consumers. This means that there is an incentive to cut the costs while also avoiding waste. The class has been enjoyable and I am really thankful to the professor for her guidance in the completion of the class.

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After learning about capitalism and socialism, a thought invaded my mind and made me realize that my family and I are very lucky to have my aunt bringing us to America for the benefits of our future. My aunt took on a risk when she was in her early twenties to cross the ocean on a small boat, along with other people. Nobody had any food to eat while on that long trip. Luckily, at one point, they were all saved by an American ship and brought them to America. I am very grateful that she put her life on the line to go to America so that one day she'd bring the rest of her family to the U.S.

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My favorite topic during this class was the differences between capitalism and socialism. I really liked the way you dissected each one with the benefits and the minuses. This is a topic that a lot of young people really need to learn about because they get caught up so easily in "movements", and in their quest to fix the world, they don't realize what they are actually supporting. I, too, started out as a socialist and was all for sharing the wealth. Only once I became a father and had to provide for my kids, I realized that I would never entertain the idea of giving away my hard-earned assets to someone else. It simply doesn't make sense, but it makes perfect sense to the younger generation because they haven't accomplished or achieved anything, so getting a share of the pie without putting in the work sounds good. After all, it's only the rich corporations that are being targeted in

their eyes. Teaching this lesson to the class made them think, and I can tell by the discussion responses that some were bothered by the material. It is hard to digest the truth sometimes, but I think it's better for them to learn now rather than later. We have a great country and of course, like every other country, we have our flaws. But nothing can compare to our commerce and the possibility of one little guy making it big. That is a big part of why so many people want to come to America, and this lesson really summarized why our economy is so much better in comparison to a socialist economy.

Thank you for imparting your knowledge and experience. I feel I retained more useful and pertinent information through your style of teaching, and I would have loved to see what your other classes would have taught me. P.S. Loved the memes in each lesson. What a fun way to learn!

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This was an amazing semester. I learned an extraordinary amount with the Lesson on Capitalism and Socialism. It was wonderful seeing the different types of economies that other countries have - and how we shouldn't take our country's economy for granted. It's amazing to belong to a country that rewards ingenuity and entrepreneurs. It was also very interesting to see the different levels of Capitalism and Socialism. From Crony Capitalism to Socialism that partially works (Sweden) and extreme Socialist countries like North Korea. The lesson was very eye opening and I believe has better prepared me for my next debate on why Capitalism is better than Socialism.

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My favorite lesson during this class was "Capitalism vs. Socialism". I always knew I did not agree with socialist values but I was able to learn more facts about socialism during this section laughing at socialist beliefs on the economy. Socialists love to point out their feelings towards capitalism and its "flaws" but disregard the facts that socialism has never worked. Socialism really just gives the government power over the people creating poverty and making you a slave to the government, limiting individuals' incentive to work hard in hopes of achieving their dreams. Whether it be material wealth or traveling, everything has a cost and nothing is free. I liked how in your lesson the only positive sides of socialism is job stability and income inequality which is very true, you work hard for your government and as a society you are all dirt poor but at least everyone is equal right? In the end you are working for nothing and trusting your government officials with your survival needs. Socialism is overall the transition from capitalism to communism which President Reagan worked so hard to fight against. I remember in Elementary school they taught us how bad communism is but now in public school all they teach you is the negatives of capitalism's inequality - and teach the children to be victims.

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When we discussed capitalism and socialism, I know that this class isn't meant to specifically cover political views or other subjects similar of the sort, but it opened my eyes as to where I stand in terms of my own opinions on the economy. It was the first time where I truly resonated with and felt passionately about a topic covered in this class.

This moment was especially important to me because as a university student, I am constantly flooded with the strong opinions of my peers and I never related to them too much or gave my opinion out to others. I think there is something very powerful about realizing even one subject that I have a perspective on, and that subject is why I feel that Capitalism is necessary in our economy.

It sparked something in me and I have noticed myself getting into discussions with my parents about what I have learned about Capitalism. The biggest pro for me about Capitalism is the fact that it gives consumers so many options and competitive prices. I just can't even imagine my life any differently. For this reason, the lecture on capitalism and socialism was the most important.

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I do not over exaggerate when I say that I have learned a lot from this class. My absolute favorite lesson and assignment in this class was - capitalism and socialism. As a debate, your presentation is a good one. The lesson was the most groundbreaking - it completely takes everything the common media says and states the reverse of it! I found myself agreeing with your point, "There are no 'Social' Problems - only individual choices." It should find its way around the media, as everything nowadays is considered a "social problem."

People all over, whether it is on social media or news outlets, claim that we are facing "social crises". Yet, those "problems" that we face are the outcome of individual choices. It does not make sense to refer to the rising homelessness rates as a "social" problem. Yes, it affects us, but people are homeless because of their individual choices and their condition is not anyone else's fault. Many want more and better than they have now (largely in terms of income) and they will do everything to attain their goals. If someone has it, you can as well -- and no man stands above another. Remembering perhaps my favorite saying that I learned from your course - Equality means, "everyone is equal in that everybody gets an equal 24 hours."

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The idea about how everyone has Equality based on equal time was the most mind blowing for me. I have considered income, racial, and gender equality, but I have never

considered time equality. I believed that the world is filled with inequality, especially after taking a Sociology class. However, this class made me think in a more positive way as I now know that no one can have more or less time than others and that each person has a choice in what to do with their time.

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I have always been a practical thinker and believed whole heartedly that whatever I have in my life has been the result of my blood, sweat and tears and also of "preparation meeting opportunity." It felt so validating to know that economists think just like me. The facts speak for themselves: our individual choices, the major we decide on, people do not cause others to be poor, etc. are extremely sobering but validating. The one Lesson I love the most is how we are all provided with the same resource...24 hours every day. Wow! What we do with those 24 hours determines so many things in our lives. If we could all take ownership of what we do with that time (resource) we would all be in a better place.

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A topic that really hit home for me is how we are all equal with time. We are all given the same 24 hours. What we all do during our 24 hours is our responsibility. If people choose to go out and party during their time they are allowed to do so. If people choose to further their education to better their career, then they are just as free to do so without ridicule.

I used to think – why do certain services cost so much and how they were a bit much for what they were asking for. I now understand that the time it took for that person to master their skill set – it must of cost them years of sacrificing precious time with family and friends to refine their skills for a service. Best example I got from your lesson was doctors. They were in school for majority of their lives just to earn that title as doctor, so their pricing is well worth it for them, and I never saw it that way until now. Thank you for your awesome lessons.

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I really enjoyed this class. I had no idea that economists and I have a common way of thinking! One idea that was mentioned is that “there are no social problems, only individual choices.” I completely agree that we make our choices in life. The world is going to be the way it is and we have a choice on how we want deal with it and live our lives. I think everyone should take ownership of how their life is turning out to be because they’re choices is what determines their future. If you’re not happy or if there is something that is not right, then do something about it. Of course there are choices that can be quite hard, take time and could be a little scary. I was working at a company for about 9 years, but I was at a point where I wanted to find a better opportunity. So I made the choice to browse around for a better job. I searched and worked on my resume to make it presentable. A few

months later, I got an interview at a government agency and I got the job. No one told me to do it nor did I wait for a better opportunity to just land on my lap; I made a choice to do my research, prepare myself and work hard to get a better job. It wasn't easy but I wanted something better for myself and my family. Another aspect of your lessons is that economists also believe that your bad situation is not someone else's "fault." I couldn't agree more. Throughout my life I have witnessed people complain, whine and frown about their life situation and always blame someone else for it. Yet they don't take an initiative to make it better. I am a true believer that it doesn't matter where you come from, how bad your childhood could've been or whatever the situation may be, you have a choice to accept that it happened and make the best out of your life. Life is just amazing to waste it on blaming others or trying to figure out why the problem occurred to you, just do something about it. Time goes by so fast so take life by the horns and own it. Thank you professor for the wonderful lessons.

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I took AP Macroeconomics in high school but didn't do well in it because I didn't put in the effort to understand the course material. Fast forward to the beginning of this summer, I needed to take Econ to enroll in marketing class. At first, I felt a little hesitant to take a class that I did not excel in years ago, but I had this new profound determination to do well because my grade depended on it (and boy, I am so glad I did). Every lesson I read made sense! My political views have completely shifted since taking this class—I have more Conservative viewpoints than I thought I did—and I see things in a different light now. Wish you all the best Professor Brown!

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I am a socialist and not a capitalist! I believe we should be social and idk what a capitalist is, but they sure aren't social. Yep, you are laughing right now, but the truth is that many citizens like me in the United States think that way. We don't know what a socialist or a capitalist really is. Because the word socialist involves social, we automatically assume being a socialist is something good. When we are children our parents teach us, what is right and what is wrong from a very young age, the notion of this moral is practiced every day. Why is it that we break down words apart and assume what they mean based on the knowledge we have learned based on part of the word we understand? That is because we were taught to do it that way in school.

Ever since I started college, I have changed my ways to thinking as a capitalist and siding more with the Republicans. Still not knowing enough about what capitalist means. I researched about capitalist and socialist maybe once in my sociology class and sided with capitalist just because it started to make more sense than being a socialist. Taking

Economics with professor Brown I have a better understanding of what a capitalist and a socialist is are. She provided a lot of examples of what they really are. This was the view I needed coming from an Econ professor.

Now that you have an idea of what a socialist and a capitalist is, are you with me? I'm a capitalist! What are you?

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The Socialism or Capitalism lesson helped me understand the two a lot more. It is embarrassing to think I didn't know the difference. With the new understanding of the differences, I believe strongly in the capitalist economy because it gives citizens more freedom to do as they wish with their business. This allows for more competition as well as better products and services. I appreciate what I have learned in this class and I can't wait to further my education.

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I learned a lot in this short period of time with all of the lessons that was given. The lesson I enjoyed the most was lesson six. It made me think about everything in our country. I used to say that I want to live in a socialist environment where it had better child care, better maternity leave, and healthier living. I based my decision only on one aspect of my life, which was my child. I realized that I was being narrow minded when it came to making the decision of living in a socialist environment. The Lesson made me think about everything that we do in this country. The things we buy, the choices

we get to choose, my freedom, and the role I play as my current occupation. I can finally understand the difference, and most importantly I can talk about it in confidence. Thank you so much for teaching me this!

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Reading the lesson on Socialism and Capitalism, I finally came to a realization that I am a supporter of capitalism. Before reading this I never really could put a name to how I believe a society and economy should be ran. I always preferred the way the United States functioned economically and socially, as opposed to other countries like North Korea. While reading the lesson I realized that I am opposed to socialism and I identify as a capitalist. Thanks to your thoughts and ideas put into your lessons I am now able to pinpoint the name to my beliefs and further my understanding in today's global society. I appreciate your efforts put into this class and allowing us students to forum our own thoughts and opinions based on logic and facts.

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The elections bring the topic of Capitalism versus Socialism to the forefront of my news feeds constantly, so it was really nice to gain some understanding through the view of an economist. With juggernaut companies like Amazon and the plentiful stories of corporate greed on Wall Street, capitalism is very much propped up in our society as a bad thing. It can be seen as an enemy of the little man and unruly in its dominance to take over everything. I felt rightly justified in my opposition against it. I realize now my anger was really at “crony capitalism”, which is not

capitalism in its purist form and is instead a twisted version we are better off without. Although there are some downsides to come from it, like inequality and job instability, it truly does allow many people to enjoy freedoms that most countries can only dream of. I can recognize now that socialism limits our consumer choices. This alone would have many negative outcomes and drastically change our economic landscape through the country. Through socialism there is less innovation and no feedback from the consumers (from spending and demand) that would really affect the sellers too much from producing the same quality and quantity of things. Socialism would produce shortages and surpluses regularly, which does not seem like an attractive idea now that it has been explained to me. I have had to curb a little bit of my socialist tendencies after taking this lesson and class. Although I would love to believe in a common good with issues like healthcare, and the ability of society to all chip in together for everyone on all ends of the economic spectrum to enjoy a public healthcare, there are many issues that would arise out of that. Centralized decisions and controlled property are just two of these issues. People work very hard for what they have, and that should be an incentive. Collective properties now strongly stick out to me as a reason against socialization. I am still very fifty-fifty on the two topics, but I am proud to say I have a much better understanding of how these two systems work than I did before. I no longer view capitalism as the enemy keeping me pinned down, but a helping hand to project us further into the economy.

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One item that stood out is how socialists argue that capitalism is corrupt and how bailouts prove that. I completely agree with that, and that skewed my idea on capitalism. Learning that bailouts are not a part of it opened my mind. I now understand that, that is capitalism but "crony capitalism" and that is something we have to fight against. I definitely agree that the choices we make or up to us and government should not try to make decisions for me. Whether I succeed or fail, is up to me.

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Honestly, I tried taking Econ once before and within the first week I dropped it because I did not understand the materials nor was I interested in it - but not this time. This time I



enjoyed what we learned, what was being taught, HOW it was being taught and I was eager for more. My husband even said he couldn't believe how much I was enjoying it. I really enjoyed our capitalism vs. socialism topic and how honest you were about what you used to believe in and what you believed in now. I'm still shocked to think people would still want a socialistic world. I wouldn't consider myself someone who's into politics but I will stand with more conservative and capitalist views because that's how we can all grow as individuals. Hoping to have you again. I truly want to thank you for teaching in a way that's understandable and fun.

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I learned that being in a capitalist country makes us really lucky because it gives us ambition to keep helping ourselves and our country. I honestly did not know the actual facts about socialism, how they basically have a dictator that does not let its citizens thrive. It was really sad learning about Venezuela and how they have food portioned and don't have the same opportunities that we do here.

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Often times, when scrolling through social media I see a lot of negative comments surrounding capitalism. I had assumed that capitalism simply meant greedy and corrupt corporations. However, after reading your lesson on capitalism versus socialism, my mind completely changed. I realized that social-justice warriors on the internet don't fully understand what they're supporting and are often misinformed. Capitalism is great and allows entrepreneurs to enter the market. People often say to "support small business" but will also speak negatively on capitalism, even though these businesses wouldn't exist without capitalism! This lesson especially opened my eyes to how easily it is to be misinformed, and how capitalism is a large contributor to our liberties as not only consumers, but as Americans!

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A topic that stood out to me is the lesson that discussed capitalism and socialism. This topic stood out to me because I think it is something that everyone should have knowledge about I feel that the debate over socialism and capitalism is very relevant because of the radical democrats such as Bernie Sanders that many young people support based off his socialist standpoint. Many young people I believe are not aware that socialism would ruin the U.S. Many people support it based on emotion (as well as a vote) and how great and perfect it sounds. I admired that you explained both systems very clearly. I also learned more in-depth about socialism and it made me realize just how bad it is for the individual to succeed and how socialism does not provide opportunity like capitalism does.

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This lesson surprised me the most. I had no substantial knowledge of capitalism or socialism, I just heard the terms being thrown around constantly. My extremely liberal friends constantly talk about how capitalism and consumerism are ruining our country. For a long time, I didn't know what to believe. Reading the lecture for Lesson 6 opened my eyes to reality, what people actually need to pay attention to. Society shouldn't blame businesspeople for making millions of dollars when they have a right to. I'd rather have that than a socialist

economy where the majority of people are poor. Overall, capitalism is the better option.

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What bothered me the most about this lesson - though at the same time I felt enlightened - was learning how our own system here in the United States is toying with the idea of adapting socialism ideas.

I never was a proponent of Bernie Sanders and now that I know more about socialism, I would hate to see any socialist ideologist candidate in any future ballot. Just the thought of America one day becoming a socialism economy frightens me.

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My favorite lesson was Capitalism and Socialism. I had already learned briefly about these two different systems. However, I failed to realized exactly how awful socialism is. The lack of rights such as property rights and free market rights really change the quality of life. I learned that socialism isn't a success anywhere. Socialism is a perfect example of great on paper but terrible in execution. There is a reason why it fails. Competition is necessary and human beings are inherently selfish. If anyone were to ask me why I don't like socialism, I would tell them to see the two Koreas as the best example. Korea was the same country before the border split, same people, same culture, and most importantly same resources. However, they are almost like 2 different worlds. The economy of South Korea is way better than North Korea's.

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Growing up I was never too involved in politics or learning how the economy worked, but I always believed myself to be a socialist. While reading through the lesson, I began to understand the difference between the two and was surprised to learn that I valued a lot of capitalist ideals. I used to believe that if the government was in charge of production/distribution, health care, wealth distribution, etc., we would live in a much more equal society with less poverty and more freedom. Now I have learned that ultimate freedom is under a capitalist economy. When giving all the power to the government, we

do not have any power to question or change the government. Contrastingly, in a capitalist economy the people have all the power and do not have to depend on government officials who are basically detached from our reality. If we seek change, we can do it on our own. Our country and its citizens are too complex in order for the government to create a “utopian socialist society” that many hope for. I come from a family of immigrants, my mom moved to America from Syria when she was 13 and my dad came over from England when he was 10. The reason my family immigrated here was to follow their “American Dream,” which is only possible under our country’s capitalist economy. Unlike many immigrants, my dad actually followed through with his dream and established his own bail bonds company which ended up being quite successful. The “American Dream” is what makes the U.S. stand out from other countries, and is rooted in capitalism. I have a dream too, to one day have my own event production company and coordinate major music festivals and as long as I’m living in America that dream will one day be an accomplished goal.

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I choose capitalism. Whether we (the consumers) make wrong choices, at the end of the day, these are our mistakes to make. We are able to learn from them, grow, and make better decisions later. Freedom is being able to take risk and work at our own pace. We decide what’s important and what we want to prioritize. I was fortunate enough to go to Cuba in 2017. Right away, the people’s oppression was palpable. Even in how they dressed. I found it very curious that a lot of the female workers at the airport were wearing stockings with various designs and patterns, even though we were in 100 degree weather. When we got to our Airbnb, and had a conversation with our host, we learned that stockings was a way of showing status. They are limited to the clothes they can buy, and only certain people are able to afford stockings. Poverty was everywhere. On the streets, in the quality of food, in their homes, everyone seemed to be in the same boat. Everyone was equally lacking funds. The one thing they were not lacking was spirit. You could hear music and see people laughing and dancing on every corner. Just by looking at them, you would think that they were content, but the moment you sat with them and had a conversation, you could see the longing in their eyes. You could hear the frustration in their voice behind every story. They were stuck, with no way out, so might as well dance. That was a memorable trip that left me feeling blessed to live in a country where the choices are mine.

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I agree with capitalism. I think competition is very important. It creates innovation and opportunities. Even when people are being laid off, they are able to choose to go work for

another similar company, or choose a completely different path. Like the saying goes, when one door closes, a window opens.”

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Cristina, I understand what you are saying. Other countries that are socialist are scary in the sense that they almost indoctrinate you with the socialist mentality and they make you think that they are doing good by you but then when you are exposed to travel, education and people, you realized what has been going on. It must be so frustrating to want to be independent and not be able to do so. Or start your own business because you are creative and yet you can't. We definitely are lucky. I hear what you are saying that we should never be regulated as to what we consume or the size of our soda drink like in NYC where they city now doesn't allow you to drink anything over a 16 oz cup. Hope you're enjoying the class as much as I am.

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I enjoyed the Capitalism vs Socialism lesson a lot. You really get to see the truth behind why our country has been so great, with many new innovations and new technology constantly being developed here. We get many choices on what we can buy, and companies must compete with one another. It forces people to innovate and create new ideas beneficial to us as costumers. With Socialism, you see less choices to be made and a government who decides what products will be made. This causes a “surplus” of items people will not want to purchase, and they’re usually inferior compared to our growing innovations in a Capitalist society. With Socialism you will see many empty store shelves empty, and it is up to a Central Planning Board to help with these shortages in product. It is not efficient, and the people will not have control over what needs to be produced.

When production of items is being ran by the government, items are inferior, and the quality is not very good. In a Capitalist society, we must have products that will compete with others in the market. People do not have the motivation to work harder in a Socialist economy - when you make more money, you are heavily taxed in order to make everyone earn around the same amount. You can work hard and not reap the rewards you would earn in a Capitalist economy. This relates to our society and what we go through each day.

I think that most people do not understand the real differences between these economies and that is why I really enjoyed this lesson. This class has taught me a lot, and this was one of the assignments I enjoyed the most. There were others that interested me as well, but this one stuck out in my mind. I hope to take another course you teach soon and build on my knowledge.

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I always thought that Socialism was better than Capitalism as it has social in its name, so it is good, but I learned that it is not that but the opposite, centralized control. Many of the Professors I took favored Socialism as they kept saying a lot of good things about Socialist countries, so I barely got to understand Capitalism as much as Socialism. So, I have ever since always believed Socialist countries are better than Capitalist countries. After understanding the advantages and disadvantages of Capitalism and Socialism, it seemed obvious that Capitalism is way better than Socialism than I would have thought. There are more advantages than disadvantages for Capitalism, whereas Socialism has more disadvantages than advantages. If you ask me what national economy I would live in, I will have to say Capitalism. Living in a Capitalist country that gives you freedom over your life sounds better than a Socialist country that has control over basically everything, including yourself. I don't know why we have been pushed to think that Socialism is better than Capitalism over the past years. But, taking this class with you Professor Brown, and learning about both Capitalism and Socialism without favoring one over the other and giving us the choice to choose which economy we think is better. This helped me to fully understand what Capitalism and Socialism are, with their advantages and disadvantages. The USA having Capitalist and Socialist economies is a great thing to have instead of just a Capitalist economy in my opinion. Thank you for being a great Professor!

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I was very excited to get to this topic. I have been on a dilemma in my head regarding socialism and capitalism. I have always had a more "socialist" mentality—I wanted more equality, mainly for education and medical services. Well, thanks to this lesson I have finally really learned the differences between socialism and capitalism and I can now say I am definitely not a socialist!

It's interesting that you said that many socialist say that socialism has never been done right, I have totally heard that before. I have also been to a socialist country many times before, Cuba, and it is not pretty for locals. The empty shelves are definitely a reality in Cuba, for locals at least. They have stores for locals and tourists, the ones for tourists usually have more stuff, but even at that they don't have much more. I also think that every entrepreneur has the right to keep all their net revenues and pay for their income taxes like everyone does. I don't think the government should take away the rights of entrepreneurs ownership to their businesses. I really enjoy the fact that if I wanted to create my own business I can, the government will not stop me or want to own my business. I love the freedom we now have and definitely do not want to give that up. I am originally from Chile and I have also seen how successful their economy is and they are a capitalist country.

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I totally agree with you that Capitalism is the greatest economic system on Earth. I have always been a Democrat, but now that Democrats are pushing more socialist ideas, I am no longer sure if I would continue to support the party. I also agree that Nationalism is important to any country for the reason that it distinguishes a nation from others.

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After going through all the lessons and doing all the assignments, the topic that stood out to me was Capitalism & Socialism. There are tons of debate about which is most suitable and effective. Reading the pros and cons of each, I stand firmly with Capitalism as I believe owning private property, having tons of choices and having limited government is most reasonable. The wow factor was reading under Socialism and finding out that there is collective ownership, few consumer choices and slim to no innovation. I could not imagine myself living in a socialist country such as Cuba, or North Korea.

I took Economics in high school, in which I learned about these two economic and political systems briefly. Reading your lesson, opened up my eyes and I do not stand by Socialism. Capitalism in my opinion, will never be replaced with Socialism as some politicians and people push for. It has numerous cons and there is not much freedom. Living a private, free and exciting life is what I would rather have than collective, slave to the government and lack of growth.

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My Ah-Ha moment was early in the class during Capitalism vs. Socialism. When this assignment came up, I thought I would fight for Socialism because it was the right thing to do. What took me by surprise was the lack of innovation and limited choices of Socialism - not to mention the quality issue. My resistance to Capitalism is that I saw it as the rich getting richer while the poor suffered. Taking this class helped me to understand a) that capitalism— although it has been misused to protect corrupt capitalists - is not all bad. It is the basis for successful economies and impetus of advancement in a society. And b) I am a capitalist because I made a choice to start a business. Creating programs that I want to share with the consumer thus giving me control and a way to compete in the market. Now I understand that once a socialist government system is in place it is impossible to get freedoms because it is a static system that works on quotas instead of innovation, competition, and choice.

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Before taking this course, I had a very different perspective on socialism. However, after taking this class, I realized my view on how socialism works was completely wrong. I learned many different features of socialism that completely shocked me. The power that the government has under socialism in today's world is truly unmatched. After finding out

that citizens have basically no freedom of choice, the idea of socialism quickly became a disinterest to me. Unlike capitalism, socialism does not allow for the production of a variety of products which makes for a better lifestyle. Before learning about socialism in this course, I thought that the idea that everyone getting equal pay could be a good thing. Although it sounds like a good idea, it essentially is a horrendous system due to the fact that people will not be willing to work anymore, which means less advancements in technology and in society. Additionally, I learned that democratic socialism is not much better at all, and that the only difference is that citizens vote for certain people to make all of their decisions for them. Lastly discovering that socialism was the reason that Venezuela fell into its huge economic crisis was the nail in the coffin. It just shows how socialism can never work and that although capitalism has its flaws as well it is the best system in the world that we live in.

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If I had to live in a country of my choice with a specific system it will be capitalism. I constantly used to ask myself so many questions that I was able to get some answers today after reading all the information! I would chose capitalism because it is the only way for every citizen to have the opportunity to become who they want to be, rich or poor. I have visited Countries where Socialism rules and until now I am devastated by just thinking of what I saw. In 2015 I visited Cuba on a mission trip, it was the worst experience of my life because I love my brothers and I could not believe what my eyes were seeing. I had heard of third world countries but being there is really different. I will not go into details but pretty much citizens don't have a right even to choose what career they want to study. I respect everyone's opinion but to me socialism should not even be consider an option.

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Today's society is going into a civil war over political viewpoints. With indoctrination in the school system pushing students towards socialism with the help of school being government run. It is easy for me to decide which side is right and I am proud to say I am a capitalist. Having freedom in the market place and the ability to decide what companies you want to do business with is very important to me. I try to listen to the other side but AOC, Hillary Clinton, and Bernie Sanders push me away from their ideals because they are so radical. I can't understand why my generation leans so far left, I wonder if they understand that free college would collapse the economy, or that their tax dollars are used to fund the bureaucrats pockets rather than being able to decide where your money goes. I have always been fascinated by Adam Smith and his book, 'The Wealth of Nations' I have done several book reports on him and value that our economy would not be the way it is today without him. It is also hard for me to trust the government and I believe the

smaller the government, the better we are. Capitalism is the best form of economy and if these socialist win a presidential election we will be one step closer towards communism, which we were fighting against the spread of communism just 30 years ago.

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I've always been someone who gravitated towards socialism because it felt the most "fair". What I mean by this is that I pictured socialism as a complete, logical solution to most of the world's disparities, when in reality, I wasn't taking into account the potential repercussions. Your lesson did a great job in highlighting many of the issues with socialism, but the one disadvantage that really turned my viewpoint around was that socialism is a huge indicator of slow innovation and a lack of new technology. With everyone on an equal playing field, this idea makes sense. It can lead to extreme shortages and a lack of needed progress as a society. The example that showcased the repercussions of socialism in Venezuela really gave me a new perspective on the situation. \*\*\*

I found your Capitalism vs. Socialism Lesson to be the most rewarding because I believe it is important for people to understand the difference between. I think some individuals have the wrong misconception of capitalism but have never live a day in a socialist country. Some say people living in a capitalist country are greedy, but if you look at north Korean leadership who is the only greedy one there? Of course there are many ways to argue these topics, but you have broken it down for students to understand. You did this by breaking each topic down and listed the features, benefits, and disadvantages of both giving the audience a clearer understanding when learning about this topic. Ultimately, after that lesson confirms that the action of new inventors and entrepreneurs does in fact help boost the economy. It not about being greedy, it about the freedom to make as much money as so please, to have the freedom of decentralized decisions. Thank you, professor, for this semester and helping your students understand better.

