



**NATHAN ZENCEY**

*B.A. Political Science*

*Minor: University Honors*

*Mentor:*

*Lori Cox Han, Ph.D.*

Beckman 209

**Applying Market Principles to United States Federal Campaign Finance Systems**

After a brief synopsis of lawmakers' attempts to regulate the hopelessly convoluted system of campaign financing in the U.S., this presentation will examine the American campaign finance system from an economic paradigm. The "market" for campaign contributions that is comprised of donors and politicians will be analyzed to demonstrate how it resembles more conventional markets, and to speculate on how lawmakers might produce policy that applies economic principles to ensure both free expression and fair political outcomes. Given these conditions, I will conclude with a recommendation for a policy solution that is most plausible given considerations of practical efficacy, Constitutional law, and political expediency.