



**SMU McLane/Armentrout Scholars Reading Groups
Fall 2018 Syllabus
The Role of Government in a Free Society**

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Meeting Times. Our meetings will be held on Tuesdays -8
pm in the O'Neil Center conference room (Crow 282). Both groups have the same readings.

Attendance is required. Your attendance and **active** participation are required. We will have **10 on-campus meetings plus a joint reading group summit** with the students from similar reading groups at Baylor, Texas Tech, and University of Central Arkansas. That will be held at SMU on the evening of Fri. Oct. 12 & the morning and early afternoon of Sat. Oct. 13 and is a **required** part of the program. You will not be paid the \$1000 stipend if you do not attend.
, but are strongly encouraged to attend all of them for

which you do not have a class or reading group conflict. You are expected to attend all 10 weekly meetings, but if you have an unavoidable conflict, you can make up for that absence by attending an extra one of these events (beyond the first required one). We also have a Workshop Series that are smaller events designed for faculty, but you can attend those as make-ups if necessary. In addition, with advance notice, we do have limited flexibility for you to occasionally switch nights if you cannot attend on your regular reading group night (i.e., if you can't make one of your regular Tuesday night meetings, you can instead attend on Wednesday night that week and vice-versa).

Dinner. The formal discussion session will last about an hour, after which we will bring in food to continue our conversation informally. You should expect this to last until about 8 pm. This is considered an integral part of the program and you are expected to participate. **Leaving early (or arriving late) will count as half an absence.** Please notify me if you have food allergies or other issues so that we can be sure to accommodate you.

Stipend. Upon successful completion of the program, you will receive a \$1,000 stipend about a month after the program ends. (Thanks to the McLane Company, Inc. and the Armentrout Foundation for their generous support for this program.) There is much paperwork involved in order to process the payment. We will fill that out in one of the first meetings. Taxes will not be withheld, but the payment will be reported to the IRS and you may be liable for paying taxes on that income. **Please contact Liz Chow (in Crow 276) if you have any questions (chow@smu.edu, 214-768-2493).** You can't get paid otherwise.

General Advice

Read Ahead. There are about 50-75 pages of material assigned each week, and the material is not always easy. Please budget enough time in your schedule to do the readings ahead of time.

Come Prepared. You should have 3 or 4 specific questions or comments prepared in advance for each session – hopefully related directly to the texts. Your **active participation** is expected and planning

ahead is the best way to make sure you are contributing to the group discussion. If there's a lull in the conversation, use that opportunity to ask one of your prepared questions.

Be Critical. Don't agree unthinkingly with the readings or each other. Reasonable people disagree, so be reasonable, but do so **respectfully**.

Be Humble. The writers we read did not know everything and neither do you. Be willing to listen to the writers and each other, and be willing to say, "I don't know."

Facebook Group. You should all make at least one post or comment about the readings each week on the Facebook group that we have created jointly with the McLane Scholars groups at Baylor and Texas Tech. Please join the group and make a contribution before the first meeting and every weekly meeting. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/733137316769255/>

Tentative O'Neil Center Event Schedule

- Fri. Sep. 14, 8 am–1:30 pm, O'Neil Center Annual Conference: The Ethical Conundrums of Capitalism. Speakers include: James Otteson, Professor of Economics & Thomas W. Smith Presidential Chair in Business Ethics, Wake Forest University; and Vernon Smith, Professor of Economics and Law, George L. Argyros Endowed Chair in Finance and Economics, Chapman University, and 2002 Nobel Prize Recipient in Economics. Collins Executive Center.
- Tues. Oct. 2, 5:30-7 pm, Texas Economic Forum: Texico. W. Michael Cox, O'Neil Center for Global Markets and Freedom, Tiffany Melvin, President of the NASCO Network. Collins Executive Center.
- Thurs. Oct. 25, 3-7 pm, Faith and the Free Market. Speakers include Rev. Robert Sirico, Acton Institute, and Russ Roberts, Hoover Institution.

Workshop Series (designed for faculty but can be used to make-up absences if necessary)

- Fri. Aug. 31, 10:00-11:30 am, Jamie Pavlik, Free Market Institute at Texas Tech, "Political Corruption and Development in Brazil: Do Random Audits Matter?" O'Neil Center (Crow 282).
- Fri. Sep. 28, 10:30-11:45 am, John Dove, Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University, Topic TBD, O'Neil Center (Crow 282)
- Fri. Nov. 30, 10:00-11:30 am, Claudia Williamson, Drew Allen Endowed Fellow at Mississippi State University, "Cultural Distance and U.S. Multinational Enterprise Activity" O'Neil Center (Crow 282)

Meeting Schedule

<u>Meeting #</u>	<u>Dates (Tues./Wed.)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Aug. 28/29	second week of class
2	Sep. 4/5	

Reading List

3) What Does “Freedom” Mean? Part 3 (Sep. 11/12) (62 pages)

Robert Nozick, “The Entitlement Theory of Justice,” pp. 234-255 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (excerpted from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, 1974) (21 pages)

John Rawls, “Justice as Fairness,” pp. 3-24, parts 1-5 of Ch. 1 in *A Theory of Justice*, Revised Edition (1971, 1999). (22 pages) <http://www.univpgri-palembang.ac.id/perpus-fkip/Perpustakaan/American%20Phylosophy/John%20Rawls%20-%20A%20Theory%20of%20Justice~%20Revised%20Edition.pdf>

Stephen Holmes and Cass Sunstein, “All Rights Are Positive,” Ch. 1 in *The Cost of Rights: Why Liberty Depends on Taxes* (1999). (9 pages)

<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/first/h/holmes-rights.html>

Michael Munger, “Egalitarianism, Properly Conceived We ALL Are “Rawlsekians” Now!” *The Independent Review* (2017). (10 pages) http://www.independent.org/pdf/tir/tir_22_1_06_munger.pdf

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

Douglas Den Uyl and Douglas B. Rasmussen, “Ayn Rand on Rights and Capitalism,” pp. 169-80 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (excerpted from *The Philosophic Thought of Ayn Rand*, 1984) Rd

Richard Ebeling, "You'd Be Surprised How Many Government Services Could Be Privately Provided,"
Foundation for Economic Education, March 18, 2018. (6 pages)
<https://fee.org/articles/you-d-be-surprised-how-many-government-services-could-be-privately-provided/>

Richard Stroup, "Rights: How Property Rights and Markets Replace Conflict with Cooperation," Ch. 3 of
Eco-Nomics: What Everyone Should Know about Economics and the Environment. (19 pages)

*Jason Brennan, "Private Governance and the Three Biases of Political Philosophy," *Review of Austrian Economics* (2018). (9 pages)

Optional readings, podcasts (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41) (42) (43) (44) (45) (46) (47) (48) (49) (50) (51) (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70) (71) (72) (73) (74) (75) (76) (77) (78) (79) (80) (81) (82) (83) (84) (85) (86) (87) (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) (94) (95) (96) (97) (98) (99) (100)

7) Constitutional Theory (Oct. 16/17) (62 pages)

- James Buchanan, "Commencement," Ch. 1 of *The Limits of Liberty: Between Anarchy and Leviathan* (1975). (7 pages) https://www.econlib.org/library/Buchanan/buchCv7.html?chapter_num=2#book-reader
- *Gordon Tullock, "Problems of Majority Voting," *Journal of Political Economy* (1959). (9 pages)
- Friedrich Hayek, "Why the Worst Get on Top," Ch. 10 of *The Road to Serfdom* (1944). (13 pages)
- *Friedrich Hayek, "The American Contribution: Constitutionalism," Ch. 12 of *The Constitution of Liberty* (1960). (25 pages, but 10 pages worth of footnotes)
- Frederic Bastiat, "The Law," Ch. 2 of *Selected Essays on Political Economy* (1848). (18 pages) https://www.econlib.org/library/Bastiat/basEss.html?chapter_num=5#book-reader

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

- Michael Munger on Choosing in Groups, 75-minute podcast, Library of Economics and Liberty (2015) <http://www.econtalk.org/michael-munger-on-choosing-in-groups/>

8) Socialism (Oct. 30/31) (62 pages)

- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party" (1848), pp. 14-34 (note that footnotes are at the end of the PDF on pp. 67-68). (21 pages) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Manifesto.pdf>
- Friedrich Hayek, "The Great Utopia," Ch. 2 of *The Road to Serfdom* (1944). (6 pages)
- Ludwig von Mises, "Socialism and Intervention," pp. 355-370 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (excerpted from *Liberalism*, 1927) (15 pages)
- *Lawrence H. White, "The Turn Away from Laissez-Faire," Ch. 1 (pp. 12-31) of *The Clash of Economic Ideas: The Great Policy Debates and Experiments of the Last Hundred Years* (2012). (20 pages)

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

- Friedrich Hayek, "The Socialist Roots of Naziism," Ch. 12 of *The Road to Serfdom* (1944). (12 pages)
- Milton Friedman and Phil Donahue On Socialism v. Capitalism (video, 2:49) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ0-cDKMS5M>

9) Paternalism & Communitarianism (Nov. 6/7) (57 pages)

- John Stuart Mill, "Applications," Ch. V of *On Liberty* (1859). (7 pages) https://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/mlLbty.html?chapter_num=5
- Michael Prowse, "Paternalist Government Is Out of Date," pp. 507-512 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (6 pages)
- *Amitai Etzioni, "A New Moral, Social, Public Order—Without Puritanism or Oppression" Introduction (pp. 1-20) in *The Spirit of Community: Rights, Responsibilities, and the Communitarian Agenda* (1993). (20 pages)
- Friedrich Hayek, "Individualism and Collectivism," Ch. 3 of *The Road to Serfdom* (1944). (8 pages)
- *Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein, "Libertarian Paternalism," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 93, No. 2 (2003), pp. 175-179. (5 pages)
- *Mark Pennington, "Paternalism, Behavioural Economics, Irrationality and State Failure," *European Journal of Political Theory* (2016). (11 pages)

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

- Richard Thale Tc 0 Tp16.511 -1.174 (, V)7.2174 TdTd()Tj564f

