

SMU McLane/Armentrout/Bridwell Scholars Reading Groups
Fall 2020 Syllabus
Exploring Inequality

Tues./Wed.: Dean Stansel, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow
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O'Neil Center for Global Markets & Freedom (www.oneilcenter.org)
Cox School of Business, Crow 282

Meeting Times. Our meetings will be held on Mondays (Bridwell), Tuesdays (McLane), and Wednesdays (Armentrout) at 6-7 pm (Central time), and Fridays (Armentrout) at 11am-noon (Central time) online via Zoom. All four groups have the same readings.

Attendance is required. Your attendance and **active** participation are required. We will have **10 regular meetings plus a joint reading group summit** with the students from similar reading groups at Baylor, Texas Tech, Angelo State, and University of Central Arkansas. That event will be held online via Zoom on the morning of Sat. Oct. 17 and is a **required** part of the program. **Attend all 10 weekly meetings, however, (if you**

have limited flexibility, with advance notice, for you to switch nights if you cannot attend on your regular reading group night (i.e., if you can't make one of your regular Monday night meetings, you can instead attend on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday that week and vice-versa). In addition, the O'Neil Center hosts several guest speakers throughout the semester. Those will all be online this semester. You are **required to attend at least one of those events (and email to your discussion leader a one paragraph summary of what you learned)**, but are strongly encouraged to attend all of them for which you do not have a conflict. You can also make up for an absence at a weekly meeting

related directly to the texts. If there's a lull in the conversation, use that opportunity to ask one of your prepared questions. It is important that everyone has an opportunity to participate, so please monitor your level of participation accordingly. (With 60 minutes and 12 students, that's only an average of 5 minutes each.)

Be Critical. There is room for disagreement. 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."

Tentative O'Neil Center Event Schedule

The most up-to-date list can always be found on our website:

<https://www.smu.edu/cox/Centers-and-Institutes/oneil-center/events>

All of these will be done online this semester.

Wed. 10/21, 6-7:15 pm (Central time), The Role of Business in a Free Society, featuring Tyler Cowen (George Mason), Siri Terjesen (Florida Atlantic University), and Jason Brennan (Georgetown University)

Date TBD, 6-7:15 pm (Central time), Texas Economic Forum, topic TBD

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

Fri. 9/25, 9:30-10:45 am (Central time), Saloni Dattani (King's College, London), Rohan Shah (Ohio State University), and Pedro Serodio (Middlesex University), "Endogenous Distancing"

Fri. 10/23, 1:15-2:30 pm (Central time),

Reading List

2) Egalitarianism (57 pages)

WMC book. Ch. 6, Peter J. Hill, "Religion and the Idea of Human Dignity," pp. 69-79. (10 pages)

WMC book. Ch. 3, Michael Munger, "The Conceptual Marriage of Rawls and Hayek," 37-48. (12 pages)

*Nicholas Barry. "Defending Luck Egalitarianism," *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 23, 1 (2006). (14 pages)

6) Causes of Inequality (66 pages)

Stiglitz book. Ch. 2, “

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

*Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner. "Is the United States Still

David Schmitz. "Liberalism and Equality of Opportunity," 4-minute video, Institute for Humane Studies.
<https://theihs.org/ppe/equality/liberalism-and-equality-of-opportunity/>

10) The Way Forward (75 pages)

McCloskey book. Ch. 39, "Marxism Is Not the Way Forward," pp. 236-42. (6 pages)

Stiglitz book. Ch. 10, "The Way Forward: Another World Is Possible," pp. 332-63. (31 pages)

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