



O'NEIL CENTER FOR  
GLOBAL MARKETS & FREEDOM

**SMU McLane/Armentrout/Bridwell Scholars Reading Groups**  
**Fall 2019 Syllabus**  
**The Past, Present, and Future of Work**

McLane/Armentrout: Dean Stansel, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor  
[dstansel@smu.edu](mailto:dstansel@smu.edu), office: 214-768-3492

Bridwell: Meg Tuszynski, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor & Assistant Director  
[mtuszynski@smu.edu](mailto:mtuszynski@smu.edu), office: 214-768-3170

O'Neil Center for Global Markets & Freedom ([www.oneilcenter.org](http://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 6-8 pm in the O'Neil Center conference room (Crow 282). All three 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. Sep. 27 & the morning and early afternoon of Sat. Sep. 28 and is a **required** part of the program. You will not be paid the \$1000 stipend if you do not attend.

You are **required to attend all 10 weekly meetings**. However, if you have an unavoidable conflict, we do 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 Wednesday night meetings, you can instead attend on Tuesday or Monday night that week and vice-versa). In addition, the O'Neil Center hosts several guest speakers throughout the semester. You are **required to attend at least one of those events**, 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 by attending one of these events. Scheduled events will be listed on page 2 of the next version of the syllabus and you will be alerted if more are scheduled.

**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 us 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., the Armentrout Foundation, and SMU Alum Tucker Bridwell 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. You can't get paid without it. 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](mailto:chow@smu.edu), 214-768-2493).**

**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.** Your active participation is required. Those who do not do so will not receive the \$1,000 stipend. Planning ahead is the best way to make sure you are contributing to the group discussion. You should have 3 or 4 specific questions or comments prepared in advance for each session – preferably related directly to the texts. If there’s a lull in the conversation, use that opportunity to ask one of your prepared questions.

**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>

Tues. Sep. 10, 6-7pm, Can the Fed Predict? A Panel Discussion on Central Banking, Thomas Hogan, Fellow, Baker Institute Center for Public Finance, Rice University and Harvey Rosenblum former Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Executive Vice President and Director of Research and Professor of Business and Financial Economics, Southern Methodist University; Crum Auditorium, Collins Executive Education Center

Tues. Oct. 1, 6-7pm, Viewing of Short Film *Tank Man* with Panel Discussion, Robert Anthony Peters, Writer and Director of *Tank Man* and Dallas Sonnier, CEO of CINESTATE & FANGORIA; Crum Auditorium, Collins Executive Education Center

Thurs. Oct. 17, 6-7pm, Texas Economic Forum, Disruption in the Energy Business: What's Next? co-sponsored with SMU Cox Maguire Energy Institute

Fri. Nov. 15, 8am-1:30pm, O’Neil Center Annual Conference, Past as Prologue: What History Teaches Us About Today’s Economy; Keynote Speaker: Tim Harford, Author of *The Undercover Economist*, Additional speakers: W. Michael Cox, Southern Methodist University; Douglas A. Irwin, Dartmouth College; Jayme Lemke, George Mason University; Edward Stringham, American Institute for Economic Research; and Ning Wang, Arizona State University; Crum Auditorium, Collins Executive Education Center

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

Thurs. Sept. 26, 10:30am-11:45am, “The Benefits of Media Polarization: Media Competition with Targeted Advertising and Confirmation Bias”, Benjamin Ogden, Texas A&M University; Crow 282 (O’Neil Center conference room)

Wed. Oct. 2, 10:30am-11:45am, “The Effect of the Community Reinvestment Act on Bank Location Choice”, Danielle Zanzalari, University of North Texas, Dallas; Crow 282 (O’Neil Center conference room)

Wed. Nov. 13, 10:30am-11:45am, “Insuring Rents”, Bryan Cutsinger, Angelo State University; Crow 282 (O’Neil Center conference room)

## Meeting Schedule

Meeting #	Dates (Mon./Tues./Wed.)	Notes
1	Sep. <b>9</b> */3/4	second full week of class (Monday is Labor Day)
2	Sep. <b>16</b> */10/11	third full week of class (2 <sup>nd</sup> week is Labor Day)
3	Sep. <b>23</b> */17/18	
NO MEETINGS	Sep. 24/25	
Fri. Sep. 27 – Sat. Sep. 28, <b>Mandatory</b> Reading Group Summit at SMU		
4	Sep. 30/Oct. 1/2	
5	Oct. 7/8/9	
NO MEETINGS	Oct. 14/15/16	SMU Fall Break Mon. 10/14-Tues. 10/15
6	Oct. 21/22/23	
7	Oct. 28/29/30	
8	Nov. 4/5/6	
9	Nov. 11/12/13	
10	Nov. 18/19/20	

\*Because the Monday of the second week of class is Labor Day, the Monday group will be behind by one week for the first 3 weeks. Their first meeting will be on Mon. Sep. 9 (the third week of class). They will catch up by meeting on the Monday of the week of the summit. (The other two groups will not meet that week.)

## Reading List

Books that will be provided:

F.A. Harper, *Why Wages Rise*  
Neumark and Wascher, *Minimum Wages*  
Ben Powell, *The Economics of Immigration*  
Malcolm Harris, *Kids These Days: The Making of Millennials*

\*Note: Readings marked with asterisks are available in the DropBox link below. All others are found in the books that you will be given. To keep the volume of reading within the 50-75 page range, several readings have been marked as “optional.” However, please do skim over those articles if you choose not to read them.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/27jd8wkc3xmjfc/AAB4DiMOvNnyZ6QW0c8sdKxja?dl=0>

### 1) Why Wages Rise (Sep. 9/3/4)

F.A. Harper, *Why Wages Rise*, Introduction and Chapters 1-3, <https://fee.org/resources/why-wages-rise/>

\*Tyler Cowen, *The Great Stagnation*, Chapters 1-2

*Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:*

VIDEO: Russ Roberts, “The Numbers Game: Do The Rich Get All The Gains?”

<https://youtu.be/GcdqGUWj2oo>

VIDEO: Stanford Center of Poverty and Inequality, “Current Trends in Social Mobility”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m05NeaG3d2A>

VIDEO: Brookings Institution, “Is America Dreaming?: Understanding Social Mobility”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2XFh\\_tD2RA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2XFh_tD2RA)

## 2) Who Protects Workers? (Sep. 16/10/11)

\*Milton Friedman and Rose Friedman, "Who Protects the Worker?" from *Free to Choose*

\*Gerald Friedman, "Labor Unions in the United States": <http://eh.net/encyclopedia/labor-unions-in-the-united-states/>

\*Morris Kleiner, "Occupational Licensing," <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.14.4.189>

*Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:*

Price Fishback, "Operations of 'Unfettered' Labor Markets: Exit and Voice in American Labor Markets at the Turn of the Century" <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2565121>

VIDEO: Free to Choose, Episode 8: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gb6aqitTgOM>

CHART: "Visualizing 150 Years of US Employment History" <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/visualizing-150-years-of-u-s-employment-history/>

## 3) Minimum Wages: Current Research (Sep. 23/17/18)

Neumark and Wascher, *Minimum Wages*, Pages 1-61

\*David Neumark, "Reducing Poverty via Minimum Wages, Alternatives" <https://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/publications/economic-letter/2015/december/reducing-poverty-via-minimum-wages-tax-credit/>

Arindrajit Dube, "Making the Case for a Higher Minimum Wage"

<http://www.milkenreview.org/articles/making-the-case-for-a-higher-minimum-wage>

*Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:*

Jeffrey Clemens, "Making Sense of the Minimum Wage: A Roadmap for Navigating Recent Research" <https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa-867.pdf>

Ernie Tedeschi, "Americans Are Seeing Highest Minimum Wage in History (Without Federal Help)" <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/24/upshot/why-america-may-already-have-its-highest-minimum-wage.html>

PODCAST: EconTalk: "Jacob Vigdor on the Seattle Minimum Wage" <http://www.econtalk.org/jacob-vigdor-on-the-seattle-minimum-wage/>

## Reading Group Summit (Fri. Sep. 27 and Sat. Sep. 28)

Neumark and Wascher, *Minimum Wages*, Chapters 8-9.

## 4) Work as a Source of Meaning (Sep. 30/Oct. 1/2)

\*Cassar and Meier (2018). "Non-monetary incentives and the implications of work as a source of meaning." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 32(3): 215-238.

\*Winkelmann (2014). "Unemployment and happiness" *IZA World of Labor*.

\*Dellot, (2014) "Salvation in a start-up? The origins and nature of the self-employment boom" *RSA* (read only p.39-69)

*Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:*

Daniel Pink, "Drive: The surprising truth about what motivates us"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6XAPnuFjIc&t=12s>

Wisenberg, "Entrepreneurship boost well-being by meeting key psychological needs"

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dinahwisenberg/2018/11/10/entrepreneurship-boosts-well-being-by-meeting-key-psychological-needs-study/#44a0498a6fac>

Mark Zuckerberg Commencement Speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QM8l623AouM>

Kurzgesagt, Universal Basic Income Explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl39KHS07Xc>

Arthur Diamond, "How Work Got Good," *Reason Magazine*, 2019. <https://reason.com/2019/08/24/how-work-got-good/>

## 5) Women and Labor Markets (Oct. 7/8/9)

\*Bailey and DiPrete, "Five Decades of Remarkable but Slowing Change in U.S. Women's Economic and Social Status and Political Participation" <https://www.rsjournal.org/content/rsfjss/2/4/1.full.pdf>

\*Claudia Goldin, "A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter" [https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goldin/files/goldin\\_aeapress\\_2014\\_1.pdf](https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goldin/files/goldin_aeapress_2014_1.pdf)

*Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:*

Claudia Goldin, "The Quiet Revolution That Transformed Women's Employment, Education, and Family" [https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goldin/files/the\\_quiet\\_revolution\\_that\\_transformed\\_womens\\_employment\\_education\\_and\\_family.pdf](https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goldin/files/the_quiet_revolution_that_transformed_womens_employment_education_and_family.pdf)

## 6) Minorities and Labor Markets (Oct. 21/22/23)

\*Price Fishback, "Segregation in Job Hierarchies: West Virginia Coal Mining, 1906-1932" <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2124151.pdf>

\*Glenn Loury, "Why Does Racial Inequality Persist?" <https://media4.manhattan-institute.org/sites/default/files/R-0519-GL.pdf>

\*Heckman and Payner - "Determining the Impact of Federal Antidiscrimination Policy on the Economic Status of Blacks: A Study of South Carolina" <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1804779>

*Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:*

Robert Higgs, "Accumulation of Property by Southern Blacks Before World War I" <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1810013>

## 7) Immigrants and Labor Markets (Oct. 28/29/30)

Chapters 2-3 from Powell's *Economics of Immigration*

\*David Card, "The Impact of the Mariel Boatlift on the Miami Labor Market" <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2523702>

## 8) What's Your Degree Worth? (Nov. 4/5/6)

\*Andrew Weiss, "Human Capital vs. Signaling Explanations of Wages" <https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.9.4.133>

\*Heckman and Rubinstein, "The Importance of Noncognitive Skills: Lessons from the GED Testing Program" <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2677749>

Harris, *Kids These Days*, Chapter 2

Carnevale, Strohl, and Melton, "What's It Worth? The Economic Value of College Majors" pages 1-17 (also contains over 150 more pages of data, and students are encouraged to look at data relevant to their major) <https://1gyhoq479ufd3yna29x7ubjn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/whatsitworth-complete.pdf>

*Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:*

*The Economist*, "Going to university is more important than ever for young people." <https://www.economist.com/international/2018/02/03/going-to-university-is-more-important-than-ever-for-young-people>

*The Economist*, "The Value of University": <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2015/10/29/our-first-ever-college-rankings>

## 9) The Future of Work (Nov. 11/12/13)

\*Munger, *Tomorrow 3.0*, Chapter 4

Harris, *Kids These Days*, Chapter 3-4

*Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:*

David Autor, "Why Are There Still So Many Jobs? The History and Future of Workplace Automation"

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.29.3.3>

David Autor, "Will automation take away all our jobs?"

[https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_autor\\_why\\_are\\_there\\_still\\_so\\_many\\_jobs](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_autor_why_are_there_still_so_many_jobs)

Andrew McAfee, "Are droids taking our jobs?"

[https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew\\_mcafee\\_are\\_droids\\_taking\\_our\\_jobs#t-828321](https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_mcafee_are_droids_taking_our_jobs#t-828321)

Andrew McAfee, "What will future jobs look like?"

[https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew\\_mcafee\\_what\\_will\\_future\\_jobs\\_look\\_like](https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_mcafee_what_will_future_jobs_look_like)

## 10) Back to the Past (Nov. 18/19/20)

\*Deirdre McCloskey, excerpt from *Bourgeois Dignity*

<https://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/556659.html>

\*Mokyr, Vickers, and Ziebarth, "The History of Technological Anxiety and the Future of Economic Growth: Is This Time Different?" <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.29.3.31>

\*Robert Gordon, *The Rise and Fall of American Growth: The U.S. Standard of Living since the Civil War*  
Chapter 1, <http://assets.press.princeton.edu/chapters/s10544.pdf>

*Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:*

Robert Gordon, "The death of innovation, the end of growth"

[https://www.ted.com/talks/robert\\_gordon\\_the\\_death\\_of\\_innovation\\_the\\_end\\_of\\_growth?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/robert_gordon_the_death_of_innovation_the_end_of_growth?language=en)

Erik Brynjolfsson, "The key to growth? Race with the machines"

[https://www.ted.com/talks/erik\\_brynjolfsson\\_the\\_key\\_to\\_growth\\_race\\_with\\_the\\_machines](https://www.ted.com/talks/erik_brynjolfsson_the_key_to_growth_race_with_the_machines)