



SMU | COX

BRIDWELL INSTITUTE
FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM

**SMU Bridwell-Armentrout Scholars Reading Groups
Fall 2022 Syllabus**

The Role of Government in a Free Society

Mon. & Tues.: Dean Stansel, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, Bridwell Institute
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Wed.: Richard Alm, Writer in Residence, Bridwell Institute
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Fri.: Meg Tuszynski, Research Assistant Professor & Bridwell Institute Managing Director
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Bridwell Institute for Economic Freedom

Cox School of Business, Expressway Tower, 10th Floor, Room 1090B

<https://www.smu.edu/cox/Centers-and-Institutes/Bridwell-Institute>

Meeting Times. Our meetings will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 6-8 pm, and Fridays at 11am-1pm in the Bridwell Institute conference room. Note that for the two years of the Cox Business School building renovations our office has temporarily moved to the Expressway Tower at the southeast corner of 75 and SMU Blvd. Our meetings are held in the Expressway Tower, 10th Floor, Room 1090B. All four groups have the same readings.

Parking. Students with valid SMU parking permits may park in the W6 “student overflow” lot **before 5 p.m.** or any available SMU employee lot **after 5 p.m.** See blue W lots on [SMU parking map](#) to the right. Students **without valid SMU parking permits** may not legally park in any SMU lot or in the lots around the Tower. There is a new campus “blue” shuttle bus that will run every half hour that any student can use. Please allow sufficient time to get to the 10th floor conference room a few minutes before your session starts. The Bridwell Institute is not responsible for parking fines or towing fees.

Attendance is required. Your attendance and active participation are required. We will have **10 regular meetings plus a joint reading group summit** which may include students from similar groups at Baylor and University of Central Arkansas. That will be held at SMU on Saturday September 17 at 1-4pm, followed by a reception at 4:30-6:30pm 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 Monday night meetings, you can instead attend on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday that week and vice-versa). In addition, the Bridwell Institute hosts several guest speakers throughout the 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 by attending another one of these events. Scheduled events are listed on the next page and you will be alerted if more are scheduled. If necessary, you may instead watch a previous event on our YouTube channel chosen from a list that will be distributed towards the end of the semester.

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 (or 1pm on Fridays). 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 Bridwell family and the Armentrout Foundation for their generous support for this program.) There is some paperwork involved in order to process the payment. We will send that to you early in the semester. 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 if you have any questions (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. 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 Bridwell Institute Event Schedule

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

<https://www.smu.edu/cox/Centers-and-Institutes/Bridwell-Institute/Events>

Wed. Sep. 21, 6-7:00pm (reception following), Crum Auditorium (Collins Executive Education Center), "U.S. Pandemic Policy: Failures, Successes, and Lessons", Alex Tabarrok, Director, Center for Study of Public Choice, George Mason University and Bartley J. Madden Chair in Economics at the Mercatus Center

Wed. Oct. 12, 6-7:00pm (reception following), Texas Economic Forum: Topic: "Can the Texas Model Survive?," Crum Auditorium (Collins Executive Education Center), W. Michael Cox, Southern Methodist University and Vance Ginn, Texas Public Policy Foundation

Tues. Nov. 1, 6-7:00pm (reception following), Crum Auditorium (Collins Executive Education Center), "*More Sex is Safer Sex: The Unconventional Wisdom of Economics*," Steven E. Landsburg, Author and Professor of Economics at the University of Rochester

Meeting Schedule

Meeting #	Dates (Mon./Tues./Wed./Fri.)	Notes
1	Aug. 29/30/31/Sept. 2	second week of class
2	Sept. 12*/6/7/9	*Mon. Sept. 5 is Labor Day holiday

NO MEETINGS Sept. 13/14/16

Sat. Sept. 17, **Mandatory** Reading Group Summit at SMU

3	Sept. 19/20/21/23
4	Sept. 26/27/28/30
5	Oct. 3/4/5/7

NO MEETINGS Oct. 10/11/12/14 due to Fall Break Oct. 10-11

6	Oct. 17/18/19/21
7	Oct. 24/25/26/28
8	Oct. 31/Nov. 1/2/4
9	Nov. 7/8/9/11
10	Nov. 14/15/16/18

*Monday group does not meet on Labor Day (Sept. 5), so their 2nd meeting is the following Monday, which is the week of the summit (during which the other groups do not meet).

Reading List

Books that will be provided:

David Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader: Classic and Contemporary Readings from Lao-zu to Milton Friedman*. New York: Free Press, 1997.

David Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Mind: A Manifesto for Freedom*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015.

Milton Friedman. *Capitalism and Freedom*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 1962.

Friedrich Hayek. *The Road to Serfdom*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 1944.

Richard Stroup. *Eco-Nomics: What Everyone Should Know about Economics and the Environment*. 2nd ed., Washington, DC: Cato Institute, 2016.

*Note: Readings marked with asterisks are available in the DropBox link below. All others are found in the books that you will be given or at the weblink listed with the reading.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e8g8no3o9c38fn3/AACMC90q4Uh7LhQBb0NYa0fEa?dl=0>

1) What Does "Freedom" Mean? (Aug. 29/30/31/Sep.1) (56 pages)

David Boaz, "Skepticism about Power," pp. 1-4 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (4 pages)

I Samuel 8, pp. 5-6 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (excerpted from *The Bible*) (2 pages)

Thomas Hobbes, "The Liberty of Subjects," Ch. 21 (pp. 96-102) of *Leviathan* (1651). (7 pages)

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hobbes1651part2.pdf>

John Locke, "Of Property and Government," pp. 154-170 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*.

(excerpted from *Second Treatise of Government* (1689). (16 pages)

Jean Jacques Rousseau, Book 1 (pp. 1-11) of *The Social Contract* (1762). (11 pages)

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/rousseau1762.pdf>

Thomas Jefferson, "The Declaration of Independence," pp. 178-180 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (3 pages)

Immanuel Kant, "Equality of Rights," pp. 181-189 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (excerpted from *Theory and Practice* (1791) and *The Metaphysics of Morals* (1797). (8 pages)

John Stuart Mill, "Introductory," Ch. 1 of *On Liberty* (1859). (5 pages)

https://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/mlLbty.html?chapter_num=1

2) What Does “Freedom” Mean? Part 2 (Sep. 12/6/7/9) (58 pages)

William Lloyd Garrison, “Man Cannot Hold Property in Man,” pp. 95-98 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (4 pages)

Frederick Douglas, “You Are a Man, and So Am I,” pp. 99-107 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (8 pages)

Angelina Grimke, “Rights and Responsibilities of Women,” pp. 114-116 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (2 pages)

Sarah Grimke, “Woman as a Moral Being,” pp. 117-118 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (2 pages)

Friedrich Hayek, “The Abandoned Road,” Ch. 1 of *The Road to Serfdom* (1944). (10 pages)

*Friedrich Hayek, “Liberty and Liberties,” Ch. 1 of *The Constitution of Liberty* (1960). (16 pages, but lots of footnotes)

Milton Friedman, “Introduction,” in *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962). (6 pages)

Benjamin Constant, “The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with That of the Moderns,” pp. 80-87 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (8 pages)

*Robert Nozick, “Tale of the Slave,” pp. 290-292 in *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (1974). (2 pages)

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

Michael Munger on Slavery and Racism, 74-minute podcast, Library of Economics and Liberty (2016) <http://www.econtalk.org/munger-on-subsidies-and-externalities/>

“Essential Hayek: Who is F.A. Hayek?” 3-minute video about Hayek.

<https://www.libertarianism.org/media/around-web/essential-hayek-who-is-fa-hayek>

Reading Group Summit (Sat. Sep. 17) (72 pages)

David Boaz, *The Libertarian Mind*. (Simon & Schuster, 2015).

Ch. 1, “The Coming Libertarian Age” (36 pages)

Ch. 2, “The Roots of Libertarianism” (36 pages)

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

David Boaz, “Detailing the Libertarian Mind,” podcast (15 minutes)

<https://play.acast.com/s/cato-daily-podcast/detailing-libertarian-mind>

3) What Does “Freedom” Mean? Part 3 (Sep. 19/20/21/23) (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)

<https://giuseppicapograssi.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/rawls99.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 “Rawlsians” 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) (11 pages)

4) Why Do We Need “Government”? (Sep. 26/27/28/30) (60 pages)

John Locke, “Of the Ends of Political Society and Government,” Ch. 9 (pp. 40-41) of *Second Treatise of Government* (1690). (2 pages)

http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/locke1689a_2.pdf

Adam Smith, “The System of Natural Liberty,” paragraphs IV.9.50 and IV.9.51, from *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776). (1 page)

<http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN19.html#IV.9.50>

The Federalist Papers, #10 (1787). (3 pages) http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed10.asp

Frederic Bastiat, “The State,” Ch. 5 of *Selected Essays on Political Economy* (1848). (7 pages)

https://www.econlib.org/library/Bastiat/basEss.html?chapter_num=8#book-reader

John Stuart Mill, “Of the Limits to the Authority of Society over the Individual,” Ch. IV of *On Liberty* (1859). (6 pages) https://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/mlLbty.html?chapter_num=4

John Stuart Mill, “Objections to Government Interference,” paragraphs V.17-V.20 from *On Liberty* (1859). (2 pages) <http://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/mlLbty5.html#V.17>

Milton Friedman, “The Role of Government in a Free Society,” Ch. 2 of *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962). (14 pages)

Richard Stroup, “Coercion: Protecting the Environment with Government Action,” Ch. 4 of *Eco-Nomics: What Everyone Should Know about Economics and the Environment*. (25 pages)

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

“Capitalism, Government, and the Good Society,” Liberty Fund Symposium with Michael Munger, Richard Epstein, Robert Skidelsky, and Russ Roberts, 118 minutes

<http://www.econtalk.org/capitalism-government-and-the-good-society/>

5) Public Goods and Externalities (Oct. 3/4/5/7) (66 pages)

*Tyler Cowen, “Public Goods and Externalities: Old and New Perspectives,” Ch. 1 of Tyler Cowen, ed. *Public Goods & Market Failures: A Critical Examination*. Washington, D.C.: Cato Institute, 1988. (23 pages)

*Paul Samuelson, “The Pure Theory of Public Expenditure,” Ch. 2 of Tyler Cowen, ed. *Public Goods & Market Failures: A Critical Examination*. Washington, D.C.: Cato Institute, 1988. (reprinted from *Review of Economics and Statistics* 36 (1954): 387-89) (5 pages)

Donald Boudreaux, “The Private Provision of Public Goods” Foundation for Economic Education, May 20, 2010. (4 pages) <https://fee.org/articles/the-private-provision-of-public-goods/>

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/youd-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, and videos:

Tyler Cowen, “Public Goods,” *The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*. (3 pages)

<http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/PublicGoods.html>

Bryan Caplan, “Externalities,” *The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*. (4 pages)

<https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/Externalities.html>

Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” *The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*. (3 pages)

<https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/TragedyoftheCommons.html>

Michael Munger on Subsidies and Externalities, 62-minute podcast, Library of Economics and Liberty (2008) <http://www.econtalk.org/munger-on-subsidies-and-externalities/>

Michael Munger on Recycling, 62-minute podcast, Library of Economics and Liberty (2007) <http://www.econtalk.org/munger-on-recycling/>

6) Insight from Economists (Oct. 17/18/19/21) (57 pages)

Frederic Bastiat, "1. The Broken Window" and "5. Public Works," of "What Is Seen and What Is Not Seen," Ch. 1 (pp. 2-3 and 7-8) of *Selected Essays on Political Economy* (1848). (2 pages)

https://www.econlib.org/library/Bastiat/basEss.html?chapter_num=4#book-reader

John Maynard Keynes, "Concluding Notes on the Social Philosophy towards which the General Theory Might Lead," Ch. 24 of *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money* (1936). (5 pages) <https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/economics/keynes/general-theory/ch24.htm>

Friedrich Hayek, "Economic Control and Totalitarianism," Ch. 7 of *Road to Serfdom* (1944). (9 pgs.)

Milton Friedman, "The Relation between Economic Freedom and Political Freedom," pp. 379-393 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (excerpted from *Capitalism and Freedom*, 1962). (15 pages)

Murray Rothbard, "The State," pp. 42-49 of Boaz, ed. *The Libertarian Reader*. (excerpted from *For a New Liberty*, 1973) (7 pages)

Richard Stroup, "Choosing: Economics and Environmental Policy Choices," Ch. 5 of *Eco-Nomics: What Everyone Should Know about Economics and the Environment*. (19 pages)

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

Richard Stroup, "Scarcity: An Economics Primer," Ch. 2 of *Eco-Nomics: What Everyone Should Know about Economics and the Environment*. (15 pages)

Milton Friedman on *Capitalism and Freedom*, 43-minute podcast, Library of Economics and Liberty (2006) <http://www.econtalk.org/friedman-on-capitalism-and-freedom/>

7) Constitutional Theory (Oct. 24/25/26/28) (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. 31/Nov. 1/2/4) (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 Nazism," 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>

Milton Friedman, "Is Capitalism Humane?" (podcast, 1:08:33)

<https://blog.freetochoosenetwork.org/podcast/episode-3-milton-friedman-speaks-is-capitalism-humane-podcast/>

9) Paternalism & Communitarianism (Nov. 7/8/9/11) (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 Thaler, "From Cashews to Nudges: The Evolution of Behavioral Economics," Nobel Prize acceptance lecture, 49-minute video (2017).

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economics/2017/thaler/lecture/>

10) What about the Poor? (Nov. 14/15/16/18) (66 pages)

Friedrich Hayek, "Security and Freedom," Ch. 9 of *The Road to Serfdom* (1944). (10 pages)

Milton Friedman, "Social Welfare Measures," Ch. 11 of *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962). (13 pages)

Milton Friedman, "The Alleviation of Poverty," Ch. 12 of *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962). (5 pages)

*Mark Pennington, "Poverty Relief and Public Services: Welfare State or Minimal State?" Ch. 6 of *Robust Political Economy: Classical Liberalism and the Future of Public Policy* (2011). (38 pages)

Optional readings, podcasts, and videos:

Milton Friedman, "The Distribution of Income," Ch. 10 of *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962). (16 pages)

Michael Munger, "One and One-Half Cheers for a Basic-Income Guarantee We Could Do Worse, and Already Have" *The Independent Review* (2015) (10 pages)

http://www.independent.org/pdf/tir/tir_19_04_03_munger.pdf

Michael Munger on the Basic Income Guarantee, 64-minute podcast, Library of Economics and Liberty (2017) <http://www.econtalk.org/michael-munger-on-the-basic-income-guarantee/>

*David Beito. "This Enormous Army: The Mutual-Aid Tradition of American Fraternal Societies before the Twentieth Century," Chapter 8 in David Beito, Peter Gordon, & Alex Tabarrok, eds. *The Voluntary City: Choice, Community, and Civil Society*. Oakland, CA: The Independent Institute, 2002, 182-197. (16 pages)

Charity vs Government, short video of David Beito on Stossel's TV show.

<http://www.independent.org/multimedia/detail.asp?id=2634>

Colonel David Crockett. "Not Yours to Give" Foundation for Economic Education (5 pages)

http://www.fee.org/files/docLib/20121116_NotYourstoGive.pdf