

**SMU Armentrout Scholars Reading Groups  
Fall 2024 Syllabus**

**Contemporary Public Policy Issues**

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,

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

**Meeting Times.** Our meetings will be held on



## Tentative Bridwell Institute Event Schedule

The most up-to-date list can always be found on our website. If you're planning to attend, please go to the link below and click on "Register."

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

Tuesday Sept. 17, 6:00 pm reception, 7:00 pm panel, Crum Auditorium (Collins Executive Education Center), Texas Economic Forum: What's Up in the Air?, Gary Leff, View from the Wing blogger, and Scott McCartney, former Wall Street Journal "Middle Seat" columnist

Thursday, Oct. 17, 6:00 pm reception, 7:00 pm panel, Crum Auditorium (Collins Executive Education Center), "Freedom and the Arts," Terry and Matt Kibbe, Free the People

## Meeting Schedule

<u>Meeting #</u>	<u>(Mon./Tues./Wed./Fri.)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
NO MEETINGS	Sept. 2/3/4/6	due to Labor Day holiday on Mon.
1	Sept. 9/10/11/13	
2	Sept. 16/17/18/20	
3	Sept. 23/24/25/27	
4	Sept. 30/Oct. 1/2/4	
NO MEETINGS	Oct. 7/8/9/11	due to Fall Break on Mon. & Tues.
Sat. Oct. 12, <b>Mandatory</b> Reading Group Summit at SMU, 1-6pm		
5	Oct. 14/15/16/18	
6	Oct. 21/22/23/25	
7	Oct. 28/29/30/Nov. 1	
8	Nov. 4/5/6/8	Tues. 11/5 election day
9	Nov. 11/12/13/15	
10	Nov. 18/19/20/22	





- \*Rampell, Catherine. (2024). "Biden and the GOP are both sabotaging clean energy," Washington Post May 17. (1.5 pages)
- \*Rampell, Catherine. (2024). "Here's why Americans are turning on EVs," Washington Post, Apr. 10. (1.5 pages)
- \*Rampell, Catherine. (2024). "Will we turn away from fossil fuels in time?" Washington Post, Jan. 3. (1.5 pages)

**Summit (Sat. Oct. 12, 1-6pm)**

- Davies and Harrigan. (2020). "Introduction: Cooperation and Coercion," 9-16. (7 pages)
- Davies and Harrigan. (2020). Ch. 1: "The Knowledge Problem," 19-36. (17 pages)
- Davies and Harrigan. (2020). Ch. 2: "Rights and Wrongs," 37-46. (10 pages)
- Davies and Harrigan. (2020). Ch. 3: "The Magic Wand," 47-59. (10 pages)
- Davies and Harrigan. (2020). Ch. 9: "Busybullies," 151-162. (11 pages)

**Week 5- Health Care**

- Friedman & Friedman. (1980). Ch. 4: "Cradle to Grave," 91-127. (37 pages)
- Stiglitz. (2024). Ch 4: "Freedom Through Coercion: Public Goods and the Free-Rider Problem," 70-84. (14 pages)

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Milton Friedman. Free To Choose 1980 - Vol. 05, Created Equal, 58-minute video of the original PBS series based on Friedman's book.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUGvtO9WATY>

Milton Friedman. Free To Choose in Under 2 Minutes - Episode 5 - Created Equal, 2-minute video, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAPOSVxRg9E>

Milton Friedman. "Redistribution of Wealth," 4-minute video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ynH2uvVIu0>

Milton Friedman. "Why soaking the rich won't work," 4-minute video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wi-D24oCa10&t=90s>

Michael Cox and Richard Alm. "By Our Own Bootstraps," Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Annual Report, 1995, pp. 2-24. (about 14 pages of text)

<https://www.dallasfed.org/~media/documents/fed/annual/1999/ar95.pdf>

\*Updated data available in this PowerPoint file in DropBox: Michael Cox, "Opportunity, Mobility and Inequality"

Russ Roberts. "Stiglitz on Inequality," 67-minute podcast interview with Nobel Laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz, EconTalk, 2012. <https://www.econtalk.org/stiglitz-on-inequality/>

Michael Tanner, public lecture on his book The Inclusive Economy: How to Bring Wealth to America's Poor, 72-minute video. <https://www.cato.org/multimedia/media-highlights-tv/michael-d-tanners-book-event-inclusive-economy-how-bring-wealth>

Angus Deaton. "Thinking about Inequality" Cato's Letter, 15, 2 (Spring 2017).

<https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/catos-letter-spring-2017.pdf>

Russ Roberts. "Deaton on Health, Wealth, and Poverty," 60-minute podcast interview with Nobel Laureate economist Angus Deaton on his book The Great Escape, EconTalk, 2013.

<https://www.econtalk.org/deaton-on-health-wealth-and-poverty/>

David Schmidtz. "The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Poorer," 5-minute video, Institute for Humane Studies. <https://theihs.org/ppe/equality/the-rich-get-richer-and-the-poor-get-poorer/>

Will Wilkinson, Lane Kenworthy, John Nye, and Elizabeth Anderson. "Inequality: Facts and Values," Cato Unbound: A Journal of Debate, October 2009.

<https://www.cato-unbound.org/issues/october-2009/inequality-facts-values>

## **Week 7-Education**

Friedman & Friedman. (1980). Ch. 6: "What's Wrong with Our Schools?" 150-188. (39 pages)

Stiglitz. (2024). Ch 6: "Freedom, a Competitive Economy, and Social Justice," 103-121. (18 pages)

\*Cato Handbook(2022). Ch. 39: "School Choice" (379-385). (15 pages)

\*Harris, Douglas. (2024). "The new and radical school voucher push is quietly unwinding two centuries of U.S. education tradition," Brookings Institution Commentary. (6 pages)

## **Optional**

\*Cato Handbook(2022). Ch. 42: "Higher Education" (407-416). (8 pages)

\*Valant, Jon. (2024). "Democrats and Republicans on K-12 education: A comparison," Brookings Institution Commentary. (3 pages)

\*Valant, Jon. (2024). "Moving from a 'parents' bill of rights' to a cross-partisan policy agenda to better support parents," Brookings Institution Commentary. (5 pages)

\*Perera, Rachel M., Jon Valant, and Katharine Meyer. (2024). "Project3EMC /P 7 Td(B)3ad (u)4 (b)ion: A c

## **Week 8-Democracy & Governance**

Friedman & Friedman. (1980). Ch. 7: "Who Protects the Consumer?" 189-227. (39 pages)

Stiglitz. (2024). Ch 7: "The Freedom to Exploit," 122-141. (19 pages)

\*Cato Handbook(2022). Ch. 4: "Election Law" (51-57). (6 pages)

\*Holcombe, Randall. (2019). "Liberty: The Revolutionary Cause," Ch. 1 in Liberty in Peril: Democracy and Power in American History 2nd ed., Oakland, CA: Independent Institute, 1-11. (11 pages)

\*Pink, Daniel. (2024). "Why not make ranked-choice voting the norm?" Washington Post, October 22. (2 pages)

### Optional

Haidt. (2012). Ch. 4: "Vote for Me (Here's Why)," 84-108. (24 pages)

\*Cato Handbook(2022). Ch. 7: "Campaign Finance" (71-80). (10 pages)





