

**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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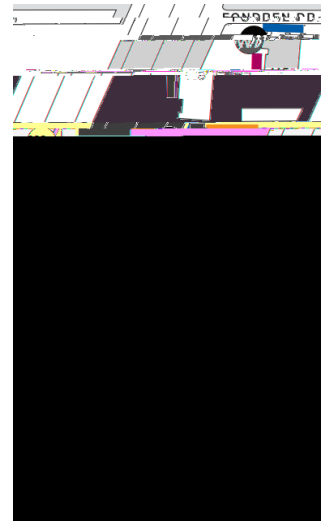
Fri.: Meg Tuszynski, Research Assistant Professor & Bridwell Institute Managing Director  
[mtuszynski@smu.edu](mailto:mtuszynski@smu.edu), 214-768-3170

Bridwell Institute for Economic Freedom

Cox School of Business, Expressway Tower, 10<sup>th</sup> 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



**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 (o)-0.6 (g)-5 (r)12.9





#### **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](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](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](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](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 *Economics: 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/you-d-be->

**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](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>

**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/mLbty.html?chapter\\_num=5](https://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/mLbty.html?chapter_num=5)