

**SMU McLane/Armentrout Scholars Reading Groups**  
**Spring 2018 Syllabus**  
**Freedom and Human Flourishing:**  
**Poverty, Prosperity, & Quality of Life around the World**

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### Meeting 1: Is Life Getting Better? (Jan. 30/31)

- McCloskey, Chapter 1 - "The World is Pretty Rich, but Once was Poor," [9 pages]
- McCloskey, Chapter 2 - "For Malthusian and Other Reasons, Very Poor," [7 pages]
- McCloskey, Chapter 3 - "Then Many of Us Short Up the Blade of a Hockey Stick." [9 pages]
- Thompson, Derek (11 February 2016). "America in 1915: Long Hours, Crowded Houses, Death by Trolley," . [\[read here\]](#) - 7 pages].
- Boudreaux, Don (20 February 2016). "Most Ordinary Americans in 2016 Are Richer Than Was John D. Rockefeller in 1916," . [\[read here\]](#) - 3 pages].
- Holcombe, Randall (2017). "Bourgeois Virtues Foster Capitalism; Does Capitalism Foster Bourgeois Virtues?" *32(4) Winter: 95-107*. [\[read here\]](#) - 7 pages].
- Hans Rosling - "The Magic Washing Machine." [\[watch here\]](#) - 9:09]
- Gap Minder - explore patterns of population growth, income, health (life expectancy), income inequality, poverty, CO2 emissions, and education over time. [\[explore here\]](#).

### Meeting 2: The Puzzle of Growth: Why Some Nations are Rich and Others Poor (Feb. 6/7)

- Acemoglu & Robinson, Chapter 3 - "The Making of Prosperity and Poverty." [26 pages]
- Easterly, Chapter 2 - "Two Nobel Laureates and the Debate They Never Had," [30 pages]
- North, D. C. (1994). "Economic Performance Through Time." , 84(3), 359-368. [\[read here\]](#) - 9 pages].
- Sachs, J. D., Mellinger, A. D., & Gallup, J. L. (2001). "The Geography of Poverty and Wealth." *Scientific American*, 284(3), 70-75. [\[read here\]](#) - 5 pages]
- Gorodnichenko, Y. and G. Roland (21 September 2010). "Does culture affect long-run growth?"

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Meeting 9: Money and Happiness (Apr. 17/18)

- Easterlin, Richard (1995). Will raising the incomes of all increase the happiness of all? . 27, 35-47 [[read here](#) - 11 pages]
- Sacks, Stevenson, Wolfers. (2013). New Stylized Facts about Income and Subjective Well-Being. . [[read here](#) - 13 pages]
- Kahneman and Deaton (2010). High Income Improves Life Evaluation but not Emotional Well-Being. [[read here](#) - 5 pages]
- Inglehart, Ronald, Roberto Foa, Christopher Peterson, and Christian Welzel (2008). Development, Freedom and Rising Happiness: A Global Perspective (1981-2007).