

Capitalism and Comparative Economics

Bridwell Institute Advanced Reading Group Syllabus

Attendance is required. Your attendance and active participation are required. We will have 10 on-campus meetings. Three of the ten on campus meetings will meet an extra hour, until 9pm, to allow for watching the three episodes of the docuseries *Commanding Heights*. The ten normal meetings plus the three movie sessions add to a total thirteen combined meetings over the course of ten nights during the semester. Students will be expected to attend at least twelve of the thirteen meetings in order to fulfill their obligation for the program. Additional absences can be made up for by attending other Bridwell Institute events. For instance, you can miss one normal reading group or leave without attending the movie session, but if you miss anymore than this, you must make up for it by attending other events. This will be enforced. Note that our schedule does not match up precisely with those of the other reading groups.

Meeting Times. Our oncampus meetings will be held on Thursday from 6pm-8pm, except on 1/27/22, 2/17/22, and 3/10/22, when we will meet from 6pm-9pm.

Dinner. After each session, we will bring in food to continue our conversation informally. You should

Come Prepared. You should have 3 or 4 specific questions or comments prepared in advance for each session – hopefully related directly to the texts. Your active participation is expected and planning ahead is the best way to make sure you are contributing to the group discussion.

Be Critical. Don't agree unthinkingly with the readings or each other. Reasonable people disagree, so be reasonable.

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 willing to say, "I don't know".

2/3/22 Freedom to Trade Internationally

White ch. 14, p. 360-381.

Cowen ch. 5-6, p. 102-152.

REQUIRED Econtalk episode <https://www.econtalk.org/daviduto-on-trade-china-and-u-labor-markets/>

2/4/22 OPTIONAL EVENT: Yeonmi Park on North Korea and Freedom

2/10/22 Sound Money

White 2012, ch. 12, p. 306-331.

Friedman 1962, ch. 3, p. 46-67.

REQUIRED Econtalk episode <https://www.econtalk.org/sumner-on-money-businesses-and-monetary-policy/>

2/17/22 Property Rights and the Quality of the Legal System | **MEETING UNTIL 9PM TO WATCH SECOND EPISODE OF COMMANDING HEIGHTS**

De Soto 2000, p. 15-206.

White 2012, ch. 2, p. 33-67.

Short video on Little Pink House <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yRHmAfiMSs>

2/24/22 The Size of Government

White 2012, ch. 13 & 15, p. 332-359; 382-412.

Friedman 1962, ch. 11 and 12, p. 212-235.

Theodore Burczak. 2013. "A Hayekian Case for a Basic Income." In Basic Income and the Free Market Guinevere Liberty Nell, ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 49-62.

3/3/22 Further Thoughtson Economic Freedom

Michael Walker. 1991. "Setting the Scene: A Discussion of Freedom, Democracy and Economic Welfare: Proceedings of an International Symposium in Economic Freedom: Toward a Theory of Measurement, Walter Block, ed. Vancouver: Fraser Institute, p. 1-21,
<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/EconomicFreedomTheoryofMeasurement.pdf>

James Gwartney. 2009. "Institutions, Economic Freedom, and Cross-Country Differences in Performance." Southern Economic Journal 75, no. 4: 937-956.

Ryan H. Murphy. 2015. "What Do Recent Trends in Economic Freedom of the World Really Tell Us?" Economic Affairs 35, no. 1: 35-150.

Ryan H. Murphy. 2019. "Boomer Socialism versus Millennial Neoliberalism." Orange County Register
<https://www.ocregister.com/2019/05/13/boomer-socialism-versus-millennial-neoliberalism/>

3/4/22 OPTIONAL EVENT: Reading Group Summit with Robert Lawson on *Socialism Sucks*

3/10/22 State Capacity **MEETING UNTIL 9PM TO WATCH THIRD EPISODE OF COMMANDING HEIGHTS**

Francis Fukuyama. 2011. *Political Order and Political Decay: From the Industrialization to the Globalization of Democracy*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, p. 52-80.

James C. Scott. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1-8; 87-102.

Fareed Zakaria. 2003. *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*. New York: Norton, p. 59-87.

Jennifer Murtazashvili and Ilia Murtazashvili. 2020. "Wealth Destroying States." *Public Choice* 182: 353-371.

3/17/22 NO MEETING – SPRING BREAK

3/24/22 Democracy