

Summer “Fun” Reading, 2014
Schedule and Plan
Organized by John Garen

This is a continuation of summer 2013’s reading group. The intent is informal discussion of various “big picture” or topical issues that arise.

Let’s meet for five consecutive Thursdays, 1:45 – 3:00 pm in the conference room on the 3rd floor of Mathews on these dates: July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, and August 7.

Pizza and soft drinks will be provided.

Here’s the preliminary schedule. Adjustments might be made as we go.

Thursday, July 10

The Big Picture of World Economic Growth

Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*, Ch. 1, “So Close and Yet So Different,” New York: Crown Publishing Group, 2012.

Maddison, Angus, “The West and the Rest in the World Economy: 1000 – 2030,” *World Economics*, 9(4), October – December 2008 (see especially pp. 75-79), http://www.relooney.fatcow.com/00_New_2733.pdf).

Hans Rosling, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo>.

Matt Ridley, http://www.ted.com/talks/matt_ridley_when_ideas_have_sex.

“The Modi Debate Worth Having in India,” News India, Times, Oct. 9, 2013, <http://newsindiatimes.com/the-modi-debate-worth-having-in-india-2/>.

Thursday, July 17

More on Institutions and Some Political Economy

Gwartney, James and Wagner, Richard, “The Public Choice Revolution,” *The Intercollegiate Review*, Spring 1988.

Soros, George, “Capitalism Versus Open Society,” *The Soros Lectures*, Lecture 4, New York: BBS Publicaffairs, 2009.

Raghuram R. Rajan and Luigi Zingales, *Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists*, 2003, <http://faculty.chicagobooth.edu/luigi.zingales/papers/research/capintro.pdf>.

Hayek, Friedrich, “The Use of Knowledge in Society,” *American Economic Review*, 35(4), September 1945.

Thursday, July 24

Thomas Piketty and the Current Debates Over Income Distribution

Wikipedia, Capital in the Twenty-First Century,

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_in_the_Twenty-First_Century.

Branko Milanovic, "The return of "patrimonial capitalism: review of Thomas Piketty's Capital in the 21st century," World Bank, October 2013 (also in June 2014 JEL).

http://mpira.ub.uni-muenchen.de/52384/1/MPRA_paper_52384.pdf.

Cook, Clive, "The Most Important Book Ever is All Wrong," BloombergView, April 20, 2014,

<http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2014-04-20/the-most-important-book-ever-is-all-wrong>.

N. Gregory Mankiw, "Defending the One Percent," Journal of Economic Perspectives, 27(3),

Summer 2013, <http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.27.3.21>.

Thursday, July 31

Deep Background Issues: Human Nature

Sowell, Thomas, *A Conflict of Visions*, New York: Basic Books, 2007, Ch. 1, "The Role of Visions," pgs. 3-8, and Ch. 2, "Constrained and Unconstrained Visions," pgs. 9-35.

Jensen, Michael and Meckling, William, "The Nature of Man," in Jensen, Michael, *Foundations of Organizational Strategy*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998, pp. 11-38.

Hayek, Friedrich, *The Fatal Conceit*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, Ch. 1, "Between Instinct and Reason," pgs. 11-28.

Thursday, August 7

Behavioral Economics (readings to be revised by Dr. Yelowitz)

Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein, "Libertarian Paternalism," *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 93, No. 2, May 2003.

Andrew S. Hanks, David R. Just, and Brian Wansink, "Smarter Lunchrooms Can Address New School Lunchroom," *Journal of Pediatrics*, April 2013.

Edward Glaeser, "Paternalism and Psychology," *Regulation*, summer 2006,

<http://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/serials/files/regulation/2006/7/v29n1-6.pdf>.

(related discussion on econotalk, Edward Glaeser, The Economics of Paternalism,

http://www.econotalk.org/archives/2006/09/the_economics_o_6.html.