

## THE TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ADVANCED INSTITUTE, WINTER 2013

Instructor: Christopher DeMuth  
Washington, DC

Today's front-burner domestic policy debates reflect two fundamental changes in American government that have been underway for several decades and have accelerated dramatically in recent years. The first is very heavy government indebtedness, accompanied by government promotion of private indebtedness for such things as homeownership and college education. The second is the transfer of legislative policy-making functions from the Congress to the Executive Branch and the Federal Reserve Board. This course will examine the political roots of these changes, their effects in particular areas of policy and political debate, and the prospects for institutional reform.

Each session will be held at Hudson Institute, 1015 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Sixth Floor, from 7:00–10:00 p.m.

### **Session 1 — February 6**

#### ***Political Change and Legislative Decline***

##### ***Reading:***

- James Q. Wilson, "American Politics: Then & Now," *Commentary*, February 1979, reprinted in James Q. Wilson, *American Politics, Then & Now and Other Essays* (2010).
- James Q. Wilson, John J. Dilulio, Jr., and Meena Bose, *American Government: Institutions and Politics* (13<sup>th</sup> ed., 2013), Chapter 22, "Who Governs? To What Ends?"
- Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein, *The Broken Branch: How Congress is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track* (2008), Chapter 5, "Institutional Decline."

### **Session 2 — February 13**

#### ***Executive Supremacy***

##### ***Reading:***

- Eric A. Posner and Adrian Vermeule, *The Executive Unbound: After the Madisonian Republic* (2010), Introduction and Chapter 1, "The Constitutional Framework."
- Christopher DeMuth, "Our Regulatory State," (a version of this essay appeared under the title "The Regulatory State" in *National Affairs*, Summer 2012).

## **Session 3 — February 27**

### ***Executive Consolidation and Unilateral Taxation***

#### **Reading:**

- Michael S. Greve, “The State of our Federalism,” October 2011.
- U.S. Supreme Court, *National Federation of Independent Businesses vs. Sebelius*, 567 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (June 28, 2012) (excerpt).
- U.S. Supreme Court, *National Cable Television Association vs. United States*, 414 U.S. 336 (1974).
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, *Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel vs. Federal Communications Commission* 183 F.3d 393 (1999) (excerpt).
- The FCC Universal Service Tax (descriptions and data)
- The PCAOB Self-Funding Tax (descriptions and data)

## **Session 4 — March 6**

### ***Debt and Democracy***

#### **Reading:**

- John J. Dilulio, Jr., “Facing Up to Big Government,” *National Affairs*, Spring 2012.
- George P. Shultz, et al., “The Magnitude of the Mess We’re In,” *Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 16, 2012.
- Christopher DeMuth, “The Real Cliff,” *The Weekly Standard*, Dec. 24, 2012.
- John F. Cogan, “Federal Budget,” *The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*, 1991.
- Henry J. Aaron, “Where is the Urgency on the Debt Ceiling?” *Yahoo Finance*, January 9, 2013.

## **Session 5 — March 13**

### ***Debt by Regulation: The Financial Crisis of 2008***

#### **Reading:**

- Christopher DeMuth, *Government Regulation and the Financial Crisis of 2008* (2012).
- Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, *Final Report* (Preface and Conclusions) and *Dissenting Statement of Peter J. Wallison* (Introduction and Summary).
- David Skeel, “A Nation Adrift from the Rule of Law,” *Wall Street Journal*, August 21, 2012.
- C. Boyden Gray and Jim R. Purcell, “Why Dodd-Frank is Unconstitutional,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 21, 2012.