

## HERTOG 2021 SUMMER COURSES

### IDEAS & PUBLIC POLICY

Daniel DiSalvo, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute

In this online course, led by political scientist Daniel DiSalvo, fellows will examine the influence of ideas in some of our key policy debates – from social class and race to welfare, education, crime and policing, and immigration. Readings will include seminal texts in political science as well as contemporary accounts. In studying major domestic policy issues, fellows will gain insight into our expectations of and dissatisfactions with American government. They will learn how ideas can transform politics, while also appreciating the limits and pitfalls of policy reform.

This seminar will meet online weekly on **Tuesdays** from **10 AM to 12 PM ET** on the following dates: June 15, 22, 29, July 6, & 13.

#### Course Materials

- Course Reader

**Discussion Papers:** Each fellow will be responsible for completing a brief discussion paper (1-2 pages, single spaced). See below for your assigned session. **Papers are due the day before your assigned session by 5 PM ET.** They should be posted on the course Slack channel and will be part of the assigned readings for the session. Paper-writers should be ready to briefly present their ideas during the seminar.

#### Resources:

To learn more about the ideas and figures discussed in this course, we encourage you to explore a project supported by the Hertog Foundation: **The Great Thinkers** (<http://thegreatthinkers.org/>) and **Contemporary Thinkers** (<http://contemporarythinkers.org/>) websites.

Relevant pages include [Edward Banfield](#), [Martha Derthick](#), [Nathan Glazer](#), [Daniel Moynihan](#), [Aaron Wildavsky](#), and [James Q. Wilson](#).

We also encourage you to visit [National Affairs](#) and its archive of [The Public Interest](#).

**Film Screenings:** If there is interest, we will arrange class screenings of two documentary films that explore thinkers from this course and the interplay of ideas, politics, and public policy. You may also choose to view these films on your own. Your TA will be in touch about class screenings.

- [Arguing the World](#), dir. Joseph Dorman (1998)
- [Moynihan](#), dir. Joseph Dorman and Toby Freilich

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**Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

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**10 AM – 11 AM ET**

**Session I: Ideas, Institutions, & Public Policy**

**Readings:**

- Daniel P. Moynihan, “Liberalism and Knowledge,” *Coping: On the Practice of Government* (Random House, 1973)
- Edward C. Banfield, “Policy Science As Metaphysical Madness,” in *Bureaucrats, Policy Analysts, Statesmen: Who Leads?*, ed. R. A. Goldwin (AEI Press, 1980)
- James Q. Wilson, Ch.16, *Political Organizations* (Basic Books, 1973)
- Terry M. Moe, “Vested Interests and Political Institutions,” *Political Science Quarterly* (2015), pp. 277–99
- Peter Schuck, Ch. 1, *Why Government Fails So Often* (Princeton University Press, 2014)

**Optional Viewing:**

- [“Christopher DeMuth on Ideas & Public Policy,”](#) Conversations with Bill Kristol (Multimedia), October 28, 2014
- [“Yuval Levin on Reform Conservatism,”](#) Conversations with Bill Kristol (Multimedia), August 10, 2014

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Can policy studies help or hurt government programs? Can we do without policy studies when government is so large and deeply involved in so many facets of life?
2. How does the substance of a government program shape the politics surrounding it?
3. Why is policy performance important?
4. What factors tend to weaken government policy performance?

**11 AM – 12 PM ET**

**Government Structure & the Welfare State**

**Readings:**

- Brian Riedl, “Spending, Taxes, & Deficits: A Book of Charts,” E21, October 2020
- Christopher DeMuth, Sr., “The Rise and Rise of Deficit Government,” *Law & Liberty*, May 5, 2021
- John J. Dilulio, Jr., “Facing Up to Big Government,” *National Affairs*, Spring 2012
- Nicholas Eberstadt, “American Exceptionalism and the Entitlement State,” *National Affairs*, Winter 2015
- Lane Kenworthy, “How the Safety Net Can Survive Trump: Social Democracy’s Staying Power,” *Foreign Affairs*, July-August 2018
- Eric Patashnik, “Budgeting More, Deciding Less,” *The Public Interest*, Winter 2000

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What are the basic features of the American welfare state? Who benefits from it?
2. How is the American welfare state financed?
3. Who actually carries out many of the nation’s major policies?
4. What will the future of the welfare state look like? Is the growth of the American welfare state both inevitable and desirable?
5. What is the federal budget process? Why has it become so politicized?

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**Tuesday, June 22, 2021**

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**10 AM – 12 PM ET**

**Session II: Poverty**

**Readings:**

- Peter H. Schuck, Ch. 2, *One Nation Undecided* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017)
- Edward C. Banfield, “Welfare: A Crisis Without ‘Solutions’,” *The Public Interest*, Summer 1969

- Daniel P. Moynihan, “In Opposition to the Welfare Reform Bill,” U.S. Senate, 104(2) Congressional Record, S8074–8076, July 18, 1996

## Discussion Questions:

1. What are the causes of poverty?
2. How is poverty measured?
3. To what extent can government alleviate poverty?

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**Tuesday, June 29, 2021**

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**10 AM – 12 PM ET**

**Session III: Education**

## Readings:

- Terry M. Moe, “Vested Interests and Political Institutions,” *Political Science Quarterly* (2015), pp. 299–318
- Frederick Hess, “The Next Conservative Education Agenda,” *National Affairs*, Spring 2020
- Martin R. West, et al., “The Education Triangle,” *The Forum* Vol. 10, Issue 1 (2012)
- Claudia Goldin, “The Human Capital Century,” *Education Next* Vol. 3, No. 1 (Winter 2003)
- David F. Labaree, “No Exit: Public Education as an Inescapably Public Good,” *Reconstructing the Common Good in Education*, eds. Larry Cuban and Dorothy Shapps (Stanford University Press, 2000)

## Optional Viewing:

- [“Chester Finn on Education Reform in America,”](#) Conversations with Bill Kristol (Multimedia), April 18, 2020

## Discussion Questions:

1. What is the basic structure of the politics of public education?
2. What is the status of the education reform movement?
5. Can American public schools be improved?

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**Tuesday, July 6, 2021**

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**10 AM – 12 PM ET**

**Session IV: Policing & Criminal Justice**

**Readings:**

- George Kelling and James Q. Wilson, “Broken Windows,” *The Atlantic*, March 1982
- George Kelling and William Bratton, “Why We Need Broken Windows Policing,” *City Journal*, Winter 2015
- Heather MacDonald, “A New Crime Wave and What to Do About It,” *City Journal*, Fall 2021
- Daniel DiSalvo, “The Trouble with Police Unions,” *National Affairs*, Fall 2020
- Joseph Bessette, “More Justice, Less Crime,” *Claremont Review of Books*, Summer 2017

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the theory of broken windows? Why might it be very hard to do well in practice?
2. Why might police unions hinder effective policing?
3. Should punishment for crime be based on deterrence, incapacitation, or retribution?
4. What would be required to reduce mass incarceration?

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**Tuesday, July 13, 2021**

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**10 AM – 12 PM ET**

**Session V: Immigration**

**Readings:**

- Nathan Glazer, “Foreword,” in ed. Carol Swain, *Debating Immigration*, Cambridge University Press (2018), pp. xvii–xxv
- Alex Nowrasteh, “The Case for More Immigration,” *Democracy*, Fall 2016
- Peter Skerry, “Comprehensive Immigration Confusion,” *National Affairs*, Fall 2016

- Reihan Salam, “Republicans Need a New Approach to Immigration,” *National Review*, January 2016

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the meaning of the statement that the United States is a “nation of immigrants”? How should that phrase be understood?
2. How should one think about the current wave of immigration as compared to prior waves of immigration in US history?
3. Should immigration be increased, decreased, or remain the same?
4. What are the core immigration reform alternatives?