

RATIONAL CHOICE IN LAW AND POLITICS
Syllabus, O'Neil Center Advanced Reading Group
Fall 2017

Books

Friedman, David. 2000. *Law's Order*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Tullock, Gordon, Arthur Seldon, and Gordon L. Brady. 2002. *Government Failure: A Primer in Public Choice*. Washington, DC: Cato Institute.

8/31 Week 1. Rational Choice

1. Becker, Gary. 1993. "The Economic Way of Looking at Behavior." *Journal of Political Economy* 101, no. 3: 385-409.
2. Schmitz, David. 1993. "Reasons for Altruism." *Social Philosophy and Policy* 10, no. 1: 52-68.
3. Kavka, Gregory. 1983. "The Toxin Puzzle." *Analysis* 43, no. 1: 33-36.

9/7 Week 2. Law & Economics I

1. Friedman 2000, 3-62.

9/14 Week 3. Law & Economics II

1. Friedman 2000, 63-111.

9/21 Week 4. Law & Economics III

1. Friedman 2000, 112-170.

9/28 Week 5. Law & Economics IV

1. Friedman 2000, 171-243.

10/12 Week 6. Public Choice I

1. Tullock et al. 2002, 3-62.

10/19 Week 7. Public Choice II

1. Tullock et al. 2002, 63-82.
2. Buchanan, James. 1993. "How Can Constitutions Be Designed So That Politicians Who Seek to Serve 'Public Interest' Can Survive and Prosper?" *Constitutional Political Economy* 4, no. 1: 1-6.
3. Stigler, George. 1971. "The Theory of Economic Regulation." *Bell Journal of Economics and Management Science* 2, no. 1: 3-21.

10/26 Week 8. Public Choice III: Bloomington School

1. Ostrom, Elinor. 2012. *The Future of the Commons: Beyond Market Failure and Government Regulation*. London, UK: Institute for Economic Affairs. Pages 48-83; 97-102.

11/2 Week 9. Law & Economics, Redux?

1. Leeson, Peter T. and Paola A. Suarez. 2015. "Superstition and Self-Governance." *Advances in Austrian Economics* 19: 47-66.
2. Leeson, Peter T. and Jacob W. Russ. "Witch Trials." *Economic Journal*, forthcoming. Available here: http://www.peterleeson.com/Witch_Trials.pdf

11/9 Week 10. Public Choice, Redux?

1. Wittman, Donald. 1989. "Why Democracies Produce Efficient Results." *Journal of Political Economy* 97, no. 6: 1395-1424.
2. Caplan, Bryan. 2005. "From Friedman to Wittman: The Transformation of Chicago Political Economy." *Econ Journal Watch* 2, no. 1: 1-21.