



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

The Past, Present, and Future of Work

Participants examine the history of paid work, labor markets, and changes in living standards in the United States. Key questions include:

- Why do wages rise (and fall)?
- How has social and legal discrimination impacted women, immigrants, teenagers, and racial minorities?
- How does education impact labor market prospects?
- What does the future hold for increasing skills, labor productivity, and wages?

Reading Schedule

Session 1 – Why Wages Rise

- Harper, F.A. (1957) “Introduction.” In *Why Wages Rise*. Irvington on Hudson, NY: Foundation for Economic Education. 5-7.
- ——— (1957) “Labor Unions.” 9-13.
- ——— (1957) “Productivity.” 14-18.
- ——— (1957) “Dividing the Pie.” 19-27.
- Cowen, Tyler. (2011) “The Low-Hanging Fruit We Ate.” In *The Great Stagnation: How America Ate All the Low-hanging Fruit of Modern History, Got Sick, and Will (Eventually) Feel Better*. New York, NY: Dutton. 5-22.
- ——— (2011) “Our New (Not So) Productive Economy.” 23-43.

Session 2 – Who Protects Workers

- Friedman, Milton and Rose D. Friedman. (1990) “Who Protects the Worker.” In *Free to Choose: A Personal Statement*. Orlando, FL: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 228-247.
- Friedman, Gerald. (2008) “Labor Unions in the United States”. EH.Net Encyclopedia, edited by Robert Whaples. Accessed at <http://eh.net/encyclopedia/labor-unions-in-the-united-states/>.
- Fishback, Price. (1998) “Operations of ‘Unfettered’ Labor Markets: Exit and Voice in American Labor Markets at the Turn of the Century.” *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 36, No. 2. 722-765. Accessed at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2565121>.
- Kleiner, Morris M. (2000) “Occupational Licensing.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 14, No. 4. 189-202. DOI: 10.1257/jep.14.4.189.



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

The Past, Present, and Future of Work

Session 3 – Work as a Source of Meaning

- Cassar, Lea, and Stephan Meier. (2018) “Nonmonetary Incentives and the Implications of Work as a Source of Meaning.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 32, No. 3. 215-238. DOI:10.1257/jep.32.3.215.
- Winkelmann, Rainer. (2014) “Unemployment and happiness.” IZA World of Labor. Accessed at <https://wol.iza.org/uploads/articles/94/pdfs/unemployment-and-happiness.pdf>.
- Dellos, Benedict. (2014) “Salvation in a start-up? The origins and nature of the self-employment boom.” 39-69. Accessed at <https://www.thersa.org/globalassets/reports/226768356-salvation-in-a-start-up-the-origins-and-nature-of-the-self-employment-boom1.pdf>.

Session 4 – Minimum Wages: Current Research

- Neumark, David, and William L. Wascher. (2014) “Introduction.” In *Minimum Wages*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 1-7.
- ——— (2014) “The History of the Minimum Wage in the United States.” 9-35.
- ——— (2014) “The Effects of Minimum Wages on Employment.” 37-61.
- Neumark, David. (2015) “Reducing Poverty via Minimum Wages, Alternatives.” *FRBSF Economic Letter* 2015-38. December 28. Accessed at <https://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/publications/economic-letter/2015/december/reducing-poverty-via-minimum-wages-tax-credit/>.
- Dube, Arindrajit. (2019) “Making the Case for a Higher Minimum Wage.” *Milken Institute Review*. April 26. Accessed at <http://www.milkenreview.org/articles/making-the-case-for-a-higher-minimum-wage>.

Session 5 – The Political Economy of Minimum Wages

- Neumark, David, and William L. Wascher. (2014) “The Political Economy of Minimum Wages.” In *Minimum Wages*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 249-284.
- ——— (2014) “Summary & Conclusions.” 285-295



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

The Past, Present, and Future of Work

Session 6 – Women and Labor Markets

- Bailey, Martha J., and Thomas A. DiPrete. (2016) “Five Decades of Remarkable but Slowing Change in U.S. Women’s Economic and Social Status and Political Participation.” *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, Vol. 2, No. 4. 1-32. Accessed at <https://www.rsfjournal.org/content/rsfjss/2/4/1.full.pdf>.
- Goldin, Claudia. (2014) “A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter.” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 104, No. 4. 1091-1119. Accessed at <https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/aer.104.4.1091>.

Session 7 – Minorities and Labor Markets

- Fishback, Price. (1984) “Segregation in Job Hierarchies: West Virginia Coal Mining, 1906–1932.” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 44, No. 3. 755-774. Accessed at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2124151.pdf>.
- Loury, Glenn C. (2019) “Why Does Racial Inequality Persist? Culture, Causation, and Responsibility.” *MI Essay*, May 2019. New York, NY: Manhattan Institute for Public Policy Research. Accessed at <https://media4.manhattan-institute.org/sites/default/files/R-0519-GL.pdf>.
- Heckman, James J., and Brook S. Payner. (1989) “Determining the Impact of Federal Antidiscrimination Policy on the Economic Status of Blacks: A Study of South Carolina.” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 79, No. 1. 138-177. Accessed at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1804779>.

Session 8 – Immigrants and Labor Markets

- Leeson, Peter T. and Zachary Gochenour. (2015) “The Economic Effects of International Labor Mobility.” In Benjamin Powell, Ed., *The Economics of Immigration: Market-Based Approaches, Social Science, and Public Policy*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 11-37.
- Nowrasteh, Alex. (2015) “The Fiscal Impact of Immigration.” In Benjamin Powell, Ed., *The Economics of Immigration: Market-Based Approaches, Social Science, and Public Policy*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 38-69.
- Card, David. (1990) “The Impact of the Mariel Boatlift on the Miami Labor Market. *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, Vol. 43, No. 2. 245-257. Accessed at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2523702>.

Session 9 –What’s Your Degree Worth?

- Weiss, Andrew. (1995) “Human Capital vs. Signaling Explanations of Wages.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 9, No. 4. 133-154. Accessed at <https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.9.4.133>.



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

The Past, Present, and Future of Work

Session 9 – What’s Your Degree Worth? (Continued)

- Heckman, James J., and Yona Rubinstein. (2001) “The Importance of Noncognitive Skills: Lessons from the GED Testing Program.” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 91, No. 2. 145-149. Accessed at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2677749>.
- Harris, Malcolm. (2018) “Go to College.” In *Kids These Days: Human Capital and The Making of Millennials*. New York, NY: Back Bay Books. 42-65.
- Carnevale, Anthony P., Jeff Strohl, and Michelle Melton. (2014) “What’s It worth? The Economic Value of College Majors.” Washington, DC: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. 1-17. Accessed at <https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/whatsitworth-complete.pdf>.

Session 10 – The Future of Work

- Munger, Michael. (2018) “The Answer Is ‘Transaction Costs’ – Uber Sells Triangulation, Transfer, and Trust.” In *Tomorrow 3.0: Transaction Costs and the Sharing Economy*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. 71-106.
- Harris, Malcolm. (2018) “Work (Sucks).” In *Kids These Days: Human Capital and The Making of Millennials*. New York, NY: Back Bay Books. 66-103.
- ——— (2018) “The Feds.” 104-130.
- Autor, David. H. (2015) “Why Are There Still So Many Jobs?” The History and Future of Workplace Automation. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 29, No. 3. 3-30. Accessed at <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.29.3.3>.

Session 11 – Back to the Past

- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2011) “The Modern World Was an Economic Tide, But Did Not Have Economic Causes.” In *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can’t Explain the Modern World*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Accessed at <https://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/556659.html>.
- Mokyr, Joel, Chris Vickers, and Nicolas Ziebarth. (2015) “The History of Technological Anxiety and the Future of Economic Growth: Is This Time Different?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 29, No. 3. 31-50. Accessed at <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.29.3.31>.
- Gordon, Robert J. (2017) “Introduction: The Ascent and Descent of Growth.” In *The Rise and Fall of American Growth: The U.S. Standard of Living since the Civil War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 1-23.



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

The Past, Present, and Future of Work

Other Resources

Session 1 – Why Wages Rise

- Roberts, Russell. (2019) “The Numbers Game: Do The Rich Get All The Gains?” PolicyEd, Hoover Institution. Accessed at <https://youtu.be/GcdqGUWj2oo>.
- Chetty, Raj. (2016) “America’s Course on Poverty: Current Trends in Social Mobility.” Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality. Accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m05NeaG3d2A>.
- Reeves, Richard. (2014) “Is America Dreaming?: Understanding Social Mobility.” Brookings Institution. Accessed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2XFh_tD2RA.

Session 2 – Who Protects Workers?

- Friedman, Milton. (1980) “Who Protects the Worker.” Free to Choose - Part 8. Accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gb6aqitTgOM>.
- Desjardins, Jeff. (2019) “Visualizing 150 Years of US Employment History.” Visual Capitalist - Chart of the Week. Accessed at <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/visualizing-150-years-of-u-s-employment-history/>.

Session 3 – Work as a Source of Meaning

- Pink, Daniel. (2010) “Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us.” The RSA Animate. Accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6XAPnuFjJc&t=12s>.
- Wisenberg, Dinah B. (2018) “Entrepreneurship Boosts Well-Being by Meeting Key Psychological Needs - Study [Editorial].” *Forbes*. November 10. Accessed at <https://www.forbes.com/sites/dinahwisenberg/2018/11/10/entrepreneurship-boosts-well-being-by-meeting-key-psychological-needs-study/#5b0097d56fac>.
- Zuckerberg, Mark. (2017) “Mark Zuckerberg Harvard Commencement Speech 2017.” ABC News. Accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QM8l623AouM>.
- Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell. (2017) “Universal Basic Income Explained – Free Money for Everybody? UBI.” Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell . Accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl39KHS07Xc>.

Session 4 – Minimum Wages: Current Research

- Clemens, Jeffrey. (2019) “Making Sense of the Minimum Wage.” *Policy Analysis*, Number 867. Washington, DC: Cato Institute. Accessed at <https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa-867.pdf>.



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

McLane Teammates Reading Program

The Past, Present, and Future of Work

Session 4 – Minimum Wages: Current Research (Continued)

- Tedeschi, Ernie. (2019) “Americans Are Seeing Highest Minimum Wage in History (Without Federal Help).” *New York Times*. April 24. Accessed at <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/24/upshot/why-america-may-already-have-its-highest-minimum-wage.html>.
- Roberts, Russell and Jacob Vigdor. (2019) “Jacob Vigdor on the Seattle Minimum Wage.” *EconTalk*. March 4. Accessed at <http://www.econtalk.org/jacob-vigdor-on-the-seattle-minimum-wage/>.

Session 6 – Women and Labor Markets

- Goldin, Claudia. (2006) “The Quiet Revolution that Transformed Women’s Employment, Education, and Family.” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 96 No. 2. 1-21. Accessed at <https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/000282806777212350>.

Session 9 – What’s Your Degree Worth?

- “Going to University is More Important than Ever for Young People.” (2018) *The Economist*. February 3. Accessed at <https://www.economist.com/international/2018/02/03/going-to-university-is-more-important-than-ever-for-young-people>.
- “Our First-ever College Rankings.” (2015) *The Economist*. October 29. Accessed at <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2015/10/29/our-first-ever-college-rankings>.

Session 10 – The Future of Work

- Autor, David. (2016) “Will Automation Take Away All Our Jobs?” Accessed at https://www.ted.com/talks/david_autor_why_are_there_still_so_many_jobs.
- McAfee, Andrew. (2012) “Are Droids Taking Our Jobs?” Accessed at https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_mcafee_are_droids_taking_our_jobs#t-828321.
- McAfee, Andrew. (2013) “What Will Future Jobs Look Like?” Accessed at https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_mcafee_what_will_future_jobs_look_like.

Session 11 – Back to the Past

- Gordon, Robert J. (2013) “The Death of Innovation, the End of Growth.” Accessed at https://www.ted.com/talks/robert_gordon_the_death_of_innovation_the_end_of_growth?language=en.
- Brynjolfsson, Erik. (2013) “The Key to Growth? Race with the Machines.” Accessed at https://www.ted.com/talks/erik_brynjolfsson_the_key_to_growth_race_em_with_em_the_machines.