“Public Choice and Government Failure” reading list – 103 pages

Exploring Liberty Discussion Colloquium  
Institute for Humane Studies

Session I: *What is the Public Choice Approach?* – 25 pages

Buchanan, James M. *The Collected Works of James M.* B*uchanan, Volume 1: The Logical Foundations of Constitutional Liberty*. Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, Inc., 1999. Chapter 2, “Politics Without Romance” (pages 45–59).

Brennan, Geoffrey and James M. Buchanan. “The Normative Purpose of Economic Science.” *International Review of Law and Economics*. Vol. 1, No. 2. December 1981, (pages 155-166).

Session II: *Factions, Interest Groups, and Self Interest* – 27 pages

Carey, George W. and James McClellan, eds. *The Federalist*. Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, Inc., 2001. “Federalist No. 10” (pages 42–49).

Tullock, Gordon, Arthur Seldon, and Gordon L. Brady. *Government Failure: A Primer on Public Choice*. Washington: Cato Institute, 2002. Chapter 3, “Logrolling” (pages 29–41) and Chapter 4, “The Cost of Rent Seeking” (pages 43–51).

Session III: *Government Institutions, Transaction Costs, and Pressure Groups* – 16 pages

Wittman, Donald. *The Myth of Democratic Failure: Why Political Institutions Are Efficient*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, 1996. Chapter 4, “Transaction Costs and the Design of Government institutions” (pages 31-37), and Chapter 7, “Pressure Groups” (pages 76-86).

Session IV: *Constitutions as Contracts for Liberty* – 35 pages

Hayek, F. A. *The Constitution of Liberty*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978. Chapter 9, “Coercion and the State” (pages 133–147).

Buchanan, James and Gordon Tullock. *The Collected Works of James M. Buchanan, Volume 3: The Calculus of Consent: Logical Foundations of Constitutional Democracy*. Indianapolis: Liberty Fund Inc., 1999. Chapter 6, “A Generalized Economic Theory of Constitutions” (pages 63–84).