

TIKVAH FELLOWSHIP COURSE  
OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 1, 2012  
Christopher DeMuth

---

***James Q. Wilson on Politics and Policy***

*In this section we will use the writings of political scientist James Q. Wilson as a guide to exploring four issues of contemporary policy and politics—government regulation, abortion, political polarization, and “coping with Islam.” For each topic, we will begin with Wilson’s essays and then take up criticisms, extensions, and applications of his arguments made by others. Our aim will be not only to evaluate the merits of the arguments offered by Wilson and others in each case, but also, and more importantly, to understand how to think critically and argue persuasively about questions that are highly contentious, that involve important factual uncertainties, and that meld ethical and practical concerns.*

**Introduction**

Christopher DeMuth, “James Q. Wilson, A Gentleman and a Scholar,” *The Weekly Standard*, March 19, 2012

**October 29: Understanding Regulation**

James Q. Wilson, “Introduction” and “The Politics of Regulation,” in *The Politics of Regulation* (1992), pp. vii–xii, 357–394

George J. Stigler, “The Theory of Economic Regulation,” *2 Bell Journal of Economics and Management Science* 1 (Spring 1971)

George J. Stigler, “Trying to Understanding the Regulatory Leviathan,” *Wall Street Journal*, August 1, 1980

George J. Stigler, “The Process and Progress of Economics,” Nobel Memorial Prize Lecture, December 8, 1982 (excerpt)

James Q. Wilson, “Interests and Deliberation in the American Republic, or, Why James Madison Would Never Have Received the James Madison Award,” Madison Award Lecture, American Political Science Association, December 1990

Christopher DeMuth, “The Regulatory State,” *National Affairs* 12 (Summer 2012)

**October 30: Abortion—Rights versus Morality**

James Q. Wilson, “Sympathy” and “Sociability” in *The Moral Sense* (1993), pp. 29–54, 123–133

James Q. Wilson, “On Abortion,” *Commentary*, January 1994

“On Abortion—Letters and Response,” *Commentary*, March 1994

Hadley Arkes and James Q. Wilson, "Abortion Facts and Feelings," *First Things*, April-May 1994

*FoxNews.com*, "Lawmakers Push Ultrasound Bills as More Americans Say They're Pro-Life," February 18, 2009

Mark Gius, "The Impact of Ultrasound Laws on the Demand for Abortions by Young Women," *12 Journal of Applied Business and Economics* 5 (2011)

Guttmacher Institute, "State Ultrasound Requirements," March 1, 2012

### **October 31: Political Polarization**

James Q. Wilson, "American Politics: Then & Now," *Commentary*, February 1979, reprinted in James Q. Wilson, *American Politics, Then & Now and Other Essays* (2010), pp. 3-17

"American Politics, Then & Now—Letter and Response," *Commentary*, May 1979

James Q. Wilson, "How Divided Are We?," *Commentary*, February 2006, reprinted in *American Politics, Then & Now and Other Essays*, pp. 79-93

"How Divided Are We?—Letters and Response," *Commentary*, May 2006

Marc J. Hetherington, "Review Article: Putting Polarization in Perspective," 39 *British Journal of Political Science* 2 (April 2009)

Jonathan Haidt, "Can't We All Disagree More Constructively?," in *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* (2012), pp. 274-313

Pew Research Center, "Partisan Polarization Surges in Bush, Obama Years," June 4, 2012, pp. 1-3

Dan Balz and Jon Cohen, "Big Gulf Between Political Parties, Divisions Within," *Washington Post*, August 18, 2012

### **November 1: Coping with Islam**

James Q. Wilson, "The Reform Islam Needs," *City Journal*, Autumn 2002, reprinted in *American Politics, Then & Now and Other Essays*, pp. 143-153

James Q. Wilson, "What Makes a Terrorist?," *City Journal*, Winter 2004, reprinted in *American Politics, Then & Now and Other Essays*, pp. 131-142

James Q. Wilson, "Islam and Freedom," *Commentary*, December 2004, reprinted in *American Politics, Then & Now and Other Essays*, pp. 154-164

Max Sageman, "The Next Generation of Terror," *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2008

Council on Foreign Relations, "Country Reports on Terrorism," July 31, 2012

Bruce Hoffman, "The Arab Spring and its Influence on Al-Qa'ida," *CTC Sentinel*, May 2012

Reuel Marc Gerecht, "The Crisis of the Autocracies," in *The Wave: Man, God, and the Ballot Box in the Middle East* (2011), pp. 1-22; and "The Islamist Road to Democracy," *Wall Street Journal*, April 23, 2012

Bernard Lewis, "Europe and Islam," Irving Kristol Lecture, American Enterprise Institute, March 2007