

**AFTER-COURSE FIELD STUDY
READING LIST***

PREPARED BY JOHN MCKNIGHT

***De-Managing America* - Richard Cornuelle**

A corporate executive takes a trip to find out how problems are really solved in America. He concludes that they aren't solved in what he calls "the front office."

***Let Them Call Me Rebel* - Sanford Horwitt**

A fascinating biography of Saul Alinsky and a social history of neighborhood organizing.

***De-Schooling Society* - Ivan Illich**

A radical, provocative thinker tells how schools disable and what we can do to restore learning and thinking.

***The Great Transformation* - Karl Polanyi**

One of the great books of the century. The author provides a history that shows how individualism replaced community.

***Centuries of Childhood* - Phillip Ariès**

Everyone should have the eye opening experience of reading the history of an idea. This famous book is a classic history of this type. It shows how children and childhood are ideas that change and control young people.

***The Institutional Imperative* - Robert Karasch**

A fascinating description of what the author believes is the inevitable process of bureaucratization. But more important, he provides guidelines for dealing with the problem.

***No Contest* - Alfie Kohn**

We take it as a given that competition maximizes choice, productivity and excellence. Kohn is a remarkable scholar who describes the research that finds that cooperation often "beats" competition in pursuit of the same goals.



***Time Wars* - Jeremy Rifkin**

A mark of our time is our pursuit of time-saving and leisure time. Rifkin analyzes how our approach to time is self defeating and leaves us unable to create or enjoy that that is timeless. We have, he says, more time-saving devices and less time than any people in history.

***The Poverty of Affluence* - Paul Wachtel**

To those who believe that bigger is better, growth is good and consumption gives choice, Wachtel provides evidence that these cultural values are now addictions. He suggests that bigness, growth and consumption are actually unsatisfying attempts to replace the sense of community.

***Autobiography of Malcolm X* - Malcolm X**

For those whose experience is limited by advantage and privilege, Malcolm X's historic, intellectual journey is a classic description of the struggle to find meaning in life when you have none of the benefits of privilege.

***Haven In A Heartless World* - Christopher Lasch**

America is filled with people who decry the weakening of the family. This famous historian describes the enemies of the family. If he's right, recovering the central role of the family will require some major changes in institutions dear to our heart.

***The Technological Society* - Jacques Ellul**

A great social historian (and theologian) describes the nature of a culture built on faith in technology, the ideas that culture supports and the future it predicts. A brilliant analysis of the limits of a belief in technical solutions.

***Thinking About Crime* - James Q. Wilson**

A political scientist looks at American behavior that is described as criminal and asks why we have so much of it. His, to some, surprising conclusion suggests that pervasive crime is the necessary correlate of our hyper-individualistic society. The antidote to crime may be, therefore, not prison but the regeneration of community.

*Every dictator knows that the most dangerous thing in the world is not a gun or a bomb. The ultimate threat is an idea. This is why totalitarians create "thought police" and control the number and use of printing presses. Therefore, in pursuit of a free society, I've listed here the most books filled with the most dangerous ideas I know. Handle with care!