



To pass you've gotta protest

Bob Kellogg - 1/10/2012

A university course that studies the "Occupy Wall Street" movement? That's what Columbia University will begin offering next semester.

Columbia professor Hannah Appel, who developed the course, does not hide the fact that she's a "veteran" participant and strong supporter of Occupy Wall Street. In an interview with the New York Post, she said that "inevitably, my experience will color the way I teach, but I feel equipped to teach [the course] objectively" -- adding that "it's best to be critical of the things we hold most sacred."

Students taking "Occupy the Field: Global Finance, Inequality, Social Movement" will be expected to get involved in the movement.

Neal McCluskey is associate director of the [Cato Institute](#)'s Center for Educational Freedom. "It's clearly trying to supply basically free members of the Occupy Wall Street movement by having students do school work by joining the movement," he says of the course.

Even though Columbia is a private institution, McCluskey says taxpayers have the right to be upset with such endeavors because Congress funds these kinds of projects -- not only at Columbia, but at most colleges and universities around the country.

"They need to tell the people in Congress [that] it is time to get the federal government, get taxpayer money, out of colleges -- [and] get it out of [the business of] student aid," he urges.

The Cato spokesman says if a student or a proposed project shows real potential, plenty of private institutions and businesses are willing to loan money for it to proceed -- rather than having to burden taxpayers with the costs.