POLITICAL ECONOMY I
ECONOMICS 3363F-001
Department of Economics
Western University

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Registration

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in a course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite: The prerequisites for this course are Economics 2260 or Economics 2150.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of pre-requisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Summary: As a general term among economists, Political Economy has come to mean ‘the economic analysis of political behavior’, and includes analysis of the behavior of political leaders, candidates, parties, voters, bureaucrats, office-holders and even media outlets and pollsters. This makes it an immense field, and thus some choices are required in putting together a course. This course is organized around four ‘Big Questions’ about politics and behavior which are at present not nearly fully resolved. They are:

1. What motivates people to vote or not and to vote for particular candidates when they do, and why has voter turnout declined in all advanced democracies in the last 40+ years?
2. How, if at all, do different electoral systems influence the number and type of candidates who run for office, the policies enacted/espoused by those candidates, and the voting behavior of citizens?
3. What are the impacts on behavior of candidates, voters and office-holders of alternative means of financing political campaigns?
4. Do presidential and parliamentary systems of government produce different policies, and/or different numbers or types of candidates and parties?

Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete the course will

- at least three times during the term say to themselves; ‘I hadn’t thought of that’.
- be able to explain to non-specialists a variety of motivations for citizens to vote (or not) as well as explain variations across countries in patterns of voting behavior.
- have a more than superficial understanding of key differences in the way different government structures operate and the influences those differences have on policy and the type and number of candidates running for office.
- understand the differences in the incentives to run for office, the likely electoral outcomes and the influences on voting behavior that are implied by alternative voting systems.

Textbook: There is no text for the course. It will be organized around a set of readings listed below in the course outline, and available for download from the course website.

Evaluation: As this is an essay course, the University requires that you write a minimum of 2500 words to obtain credit. In this course 95% of what you are evaluated on will be written, so you will end up writing more than that. The work to be evaluated will consist of the following:

1. Two in-class quizzes, each of which will count for 10% of your term mark. These will be open-book, meaning you can use any printed material you bring with you to class (no electronic devices may be used).

   Quiz 1 – This will be an essay quiz based entirely on the two readings posted under Resources/Readings/Quiz 1 Readings. It will be given on Thursday, September 11, when you will have 45 minutes to write. This Quiz has two objectives. One, to insure everyone has a basic understanding of how at least two political systems work, and two, to give you early feedback on your writing.

   Quiz 2 – Another essay quiz, on Thursday, November 27. Again you will have 45 minutes to write. The material covered on Q2 will be announced one week beforehand.

   These are in-class writing/analysis exercises, and no make-ups will be given. If you miss either one, the weight on your term paper mark will be increased to 40%. If you miss both, you will get a 0 for the quiz part of your mark.

2. Two take-home writing assignments, each counting for 20% of your course mark. For these assignments I will require that you cite any sources you use, including those covered in class, but will place no requirements on the number or types of sources you must cite.

   Essay Assignment 1 – A set of questions related to the course material covered to date will be given to you in class on Tuesday, October 14. Your answers to these questions will be due at the
start of class on **Tuesday, October 21**. The objective of this assignment is to see if you have absorbed the material in the class well enough to write sensibly and clearly on questions related to it.

**Essay Assignment 2** – You will be required to write a ‘referee report’ on a *scholarly paper* that is related to the course material. This cannot be one of the ‘starred’ papers in the course outline, but in any case, you must get the paper you’ve chosen approved by me or the Assignment will not be accepted. Further details on what I expect in Essay Assignment 2 can be found on the website under **Resources/Essay Assignment and Term Paper Info/Info for Essay Assignment 2**. This Essay Assignment is due at the start of class on **Thursday, November 20**. The objective of this Essay Assignment is to give you a first chance to construct a well-written argument about a substantive topic; you will do this via analysis of what others have written.

There are no minimum or maximum lengths for these essays; your task is to write clearly and persuasively. However I would expect that a good Essay 2 will be about 3 typed pages.

**Penalties for late assignments:** If I do not have either of these assignments in my hand by the time they are due, it will immediately cost you 20% of the mark, with another 20% for each additional 24 hours (or part thereof) that it is late.

3. A term paper. This will be 10 typed pages (about 3000 words) not counting a title page or reference page or any tables or graphs. Details regarding what I expect for this are on the website under **Resources/Essay Assignment and Term Paper Info/Info for Term Paper**, and it will count for 30% of your course mark. You must inform me of your topic (and have me approve it) no later than **Tuesday, November 18**, and it is due at 3:00pm on **Monday, December 8**. The same late penalties apply to this as for the Essay Assignments.

4. Class participation. As you will find out quickly, I run a very interactive class, asking a lot of questions. This means you need to come to class having read what is expected of you, and be ready to **participate**. The extent to which you attend class and get involved in the discussion will count for 10% of your course mark.

**Course Outline**

All of the readings listed below can be found on and downloaded from the course website as pdfs. Don’t worry, you won’t be expected to read them all, just the ‘starred’ ones (and not necessarily every page of those), but the others will give you a place to start on your term paper topic as well as Essay Assignment 2. Exactly which papers will end up being starred in Sections II-IV is still being worked out; I’ll keep you informed.

**I. To Vote or Not to Vote?**

A. The decline in voter turnout since the 1970s

*IDEA* data on turnout ([http://www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int))
*Brief on turnout in US Presidential Elections, Social Science Data Analysis Network, University of Michigan.


B. Why do people vote – or not vote? Theories of voting behavior


Gerber, A. S., and D. P. Green, 2000, “The Effects of Canvassing, Telephone Calls, and Direct
Mail on Voter Turnout: A Field Experiment” *American Political Science Review*, 49: 653-663.

C. Strategic voting


*P R Abramson, J H Aldrich, A Blais, M Diamond, A Diskin, I H Indridason, D J Lee and R Levine, 2010, “Comparing strategic voting under FPTP and PR,” *Comparative Political Studies* 43: 61-90 [Intro is a good summary of the SV issues]


D. Mandatory voting and its consequences


II. Electoral systems and their impact

A. Definitions and Data


B. Why it matters


**III. Financing political campaigns: influence and electoral outcomes**


**IV. Presidential vs parliamentary government: what difference does it make? (this section is still very much under construction)**


Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses
An essay course is defined as a course in which the cumulative amount of written work, excluding written work in examinations, is normally at least 2,500 words (for a half course).

In order to pass an essay course the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing as well as the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades
Students must demonstrate the ability to write clearly and correctly. Written work on any subject that shows a lack of proficiency in English and is unacceptable for academic credit will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable literate level.

To foster competence in the use of the English language within their disciplines, all instructors will take proficiency in English into account in the assignment of grades. Note that this policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

Recycling of Assignments
Students are prohibited from handing in the same essay or paper for two different courses. This would be considered a scholastic offence and subject to academic penalties, including but not limited to the possibility of zero on that particular assignment.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is defined as: “The act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.”

The concept of plagiarism applies to ALL assignments and their component parts, including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects.

Below are examples of some common mistakes that constitute acts of plagiarism. It is plagiarism if you:

- Submit someone else’s work as your own
- Buy a paper from a paper mill, website or other source and submit it as your own work
- Copy sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without giving the original author credit
- Replace selected words from a passage and use it as your own without giving the original author credit
- Copy any type of multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without giving the original author credit
- Piece together phrases, ideas and sentences from a variety of sources to write an essay without giving the original authors credit
- Build on someone else’s ideas or phrases to write your paper without giving the original author credit

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1 From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbering.pdf

2 From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf


4 From the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial [http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/]
Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the entire course, and expulsion from the university.

Purchasing an essay is a form of plagiarism and a very serious offence. The UWO Academic Calendar indicates that the penalty can be as severe as expulsion from the university.

Instructors may require students to submit their written work electronically to http://www.turnitin.com. Turnitin.com is a service that assists instructors and students in detecting and avoiding plagiarism.

Students wishing more guidance on how to avoid plagiarism or in doubt about whether their work constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor. Claiming that you did not know you have plagiarized is not an acceptable excuse.

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly and fully cite references for the sources you use in your work. The next section provides a summary of style guidelines for citing references.

Referencing and Citation Guidelines

If you use the work or ideas of others in your work, you must acknowledge the contributions of the original authors and provide citations and references to their work. (See plagiarism above.)


Economics papers typically use the author-date style of references. A detailed explanation of the author-date style and numerous examples of citations for print and electronic sources are available in chapters 14 and 15 of the Chicago Manual of Style Online. See also the handy “Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide” under Tools on the homepage.

Below are some examples. In the body of an essay, citations give the last names of the authors of the piece you are referencing, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. These in-text citations refer the reader to more complete bibliographic references given in a list of references at the end of the essay. If your paper cites multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year, the convention is to add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and the References, e.g., 1993a and 1993b. This way, the in-text citation points the reader to the correct work in the References.

Examples of in-text citations:

Diamond (1981, 1982) and Mortensen (1982a, 1982b) find these externalities can cause an inefficient level of search activity...

The “new view of unemployment” which emerged during the 1970s emphasized the importance of turnover in the labour force and the brief duration of many employments spells (Hall 1970, 1972; Perry 1972; Marston 1976).

The primary objectives of the LMAS are “1. To provide measures of the dynamic…the Labour Force Survey” (Statistics Canada 1990, 5).

The bibliography or list of references at the end of the essay gives full information about each source cited. In addition to a bibliography, you should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This should be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the bibliography.

Examples of the author-date style in a bibliography or list of references for some commonly used materials follow. Notice that when a reference has multiple authors, the format for additional authors is Firstname Lastname.

(i) BOOKS:

Lastname, Firstname. Copyright year. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher’s Name.
(ii) JOURNAL ARTICLES OR ARTICLES IN A BANK REVIEW:


(iii) GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS:

Government Agency, Bureau or Department. Year. Title. Catalogue or issue number or additional information (where applicable).


(iv) NEWSPAPERS:

Lastname, Firstname. Year. “Title.” Name of Newspaper. Month day. Note that the page number should be given in the in-text citation, for example, (Sicular and Hartford 1989, 14).

(v) CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS OR CONFERENCE VOLUMES:

Lastname, Firstname. Year. “Title.” In Title of Book/Volume, edited by Firstname Lastname, page range. Place of Publication: Publisher’s Name.

(vi) ONLINE BOOKS:

Lastname, Firstname. Year. Title. Place of Publication: Publisher. url/web address (access date).

(vii) ONLINE JOURNAL ARTICLES:

Lastname, Firstname. Year. “Title.” Journal Volume: pages or article number. url/web address (access date).

(viii) INTERNET SITES:

Name of Website or Organization. url/web address (access date).
Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

The best place to start a written economics assignment is by reviewing your instructor’s description of and instructions about the assignment. If you have questions about the assignment, you should ask your instructor.

A good way to learn how economists write is to read work written by economists. Examples of economic writing can be found in the course outline, economics journals, working papers series, and other economic publications. Your instructor may be able to suggest good examples of published work or provide examples of good student work from past years.

Two books that provide useful advice on how to write for economics are:


Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

An excellent place to start looking for information and ideas is the Resources Link on the Department of Economics website (http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html). Here you will find a comprehensive list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, and so on.

The DB Weldon Library has an outstanding collection of materials in economics including bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage http://www.lib.uwo.ca/. Access is available anywhere there is an internet connection using the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

You are strongly encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about library resources, where things are located physically and online, and where to go for assistance. You should feel free to consult library staff if you have any questions or are having difficulty using the library.

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is a good place to begin exploring topics in economics. The most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today, it features articles by influential economists in their areas of expertise. It is available online through the library catalogue, or in print in the Weldon’s Reference section (call # HB 61.N49 2008 v. 1-8).

EconLit (Economic Literature) is a comprehensive, indexed electronic bibliography of economic literature from 1969 to the present covering major journals, articles in collective volumes (essays, proceedings, etc.), books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. Citations, selected abstracts, and links to UWO’s full-text resources are provided. EconLit is available through the Library catalogue, or from the Library’s list of Databases found under “Research” on the Library homepage http://www.lib.uwo.ca/.

You can download and print records from the EconLit database. Once you have successfully marked records of interest, download your marked records to a text file, send marked records by email, or export them to a citation manager such as Refworks.

Refworks is a bibliographic and citation software tool that can be used to construct citations and lists of references in the author-date and other styles. Refworks is available at http://refworks.scholarsportal.info/Refworks/login.asp?WNCLang=false.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's computerized database of time series data covering a wide variety of social and economic aspects of Canadian life. Access the database by doing a Title Search on the Western Libraries Catalogue, or from the Library’s list of Databases found under “Research” on the Library homepage http://www.lib.uwo.ca/.

Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER)

The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. The WUER is a journal published by the Department once a year that showcases student work in economics. For information about the WUER and its submission guidelines, please visit http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html.
Alumni Essay Prizes in Economics

The following criteria will be used, and each prize is valued at $550:

1. Students can only win the prize once.

2. Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the Academic term. One for a student registered in a 2100 level course (A or B) and one for a student registered in a 2200 (A or B) or higher level course. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this as it has its own paper prize.

3. Instructors will nominate students for the prize. The paper should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner.

4. The Essay Prize Committee will consist of the Undergraduate Program Director, WUER Faculty Advisor and one other faculty member. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

5. Papers will be judged on content, originality, use of references, spelling and grammar.

The grade given to the paper will not influence the decision of the Essay Prize Committee as all comments by the original marker will be removed.

The deadlines for submissions are:

- Fall courses: December 19th
- Winter courses: April 30th

*The winner of the essay prize will have his/her paper submitted in the spring to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.*
Please Note
Department Policies for 2014 – 2015

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own academic Programs. Also remember to check your registration to make sure you are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. Guidelines and policies for the Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca.


3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat”. The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as a notation on your official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.

4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge it by using quotation marks where appropriate and referencing with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic office (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the current UWO Academic Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg113.html).

   The University of Western Ontario uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form. Those found guilty will have penalties imposed as noted in point 3.

5. It is Department of Economics policy that NO assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students are responsible for submitting assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.

6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the University’s Procedures in the current UWO Academic Calendar (http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg112.html). Please note the relevant deadlines.

   The Department will not consider any appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter first with your instructor. If after this discussion you remain dissatisfied with a grade or other decision, you may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for your appeal. A useful form and checklist is provided at (http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals).
7. Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is not grounds for an appeal.

8. Note the following add and drop deadlines:

   Last day to **add** a full course or First term half course:
   **Friday, September 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2014**

   Last day to **drop** second term half course without academic penalty:
   **Wednesday, November 5\textsuperscript{th}, 2014**

9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is not an excuse for a make-up. This rule applies to all mid-term tests and final exams in the Department of Economics.

   **Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations**

   *Academic Accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. You must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered.*

   If you decide to write a test or an examination, you must be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis, is not permitted. Book airline flights after you know the dates of your final examinations. Airline flights must not conflict with test or final exams.

   If you are requesting a makeup test for a midterm or a final examination, unless medically incapable, notify your instructor by email or phone, preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test, but definitely within **24 hours** of the date of the test or exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. Set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet personally with your instructor. If the instructor is not available, you may send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca (Social Science Room 4075). Notifying your instructor of a missed test or exam does not automatically entitle you to a makeup test.

   Students who seek a makeup test or examination must provide medical or other relevant verification that their absence from a regularly scheduled test or examination is beyond their control. Documentation must support your reasons. Medical documentation should be given to the Academic Counselling Office of your home Faculty **as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the test)** if you know you may not be able to write your final examination on the scheduled day and time. Failure to follow this procedure, or to provide supporting documentation, may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. If your documentation is not acceptable, you will be given a zero for the missed test.

   For personal illness, if you consult Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If
you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must be used and can be found at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf). Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For any other circumstances, if you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask your Academic Counselor. If your documentation is judged sufficient, the academic counselor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple color form for final examinations). Once you have this form, contact your instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved from your home faculty Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to write the makeup test and exam.

For final examinations, you need permission from your home Faculty Counsellor, your instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an examination grade of zero. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Undergraduate Director and that the form is returned to the Academic Counseling Office for approval without delay. Make-up final examinations, if permitted, will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

**Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation**

Information about the Faculty of Social Science’s policies regarding academic accommodation is found on its website at [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp) or in Social Science Room 2105. Your “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” are also outlined in the current UWO Calendar at [http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg111.html](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg111.html). Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

**Policy Regarding Class Attendance**

If your instructor views your class attendance as unsatisfactory, you can be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, you will be notified in writing.

**Statement on Mental Health and Support Services**

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional/mental distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for more information and a complete list of resources, as well as how to obtain help.