Registraion

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this 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://student.uwo.ca/. 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:** The field of economics known as Political Economy has come to mean ‘the economic analysis of political behavior’, which includes the behavior of political leaders, candidates, parties, voters, bureaucrats, office-holders, donors and even the media. This makes it an immense field, forcing me to make choices in putting together this course. I have 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 many advanced democracies in the last 40+ years?
2. Do 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. What has been the impact, if any, of changes in the news/information industry on political outcomes?
5. What is meant by corruption in government and what conditions cause it to increase or decrease?
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.
- understand the difference between a claim an argument and evidence, and be able to assess the quality of all three in one’s own and in other people’s writing.

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. We will also at times make use of material from the following websites (which are, in any case, full of interesting information for anyone interested in political behavior).

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance - www.idea.int
Center for Responsive Politics (USA) - www.opensecrets.org/
Elections Canada - www.elections.ca/
Federal Elections Commission (USA) - www.fec.gov/
Transparency International - www.transparency.org

Evaluation: As this is an essay course, the University requires that you write a minimum of 2500 words to obtain credit. In this course 90% of what you are evaluated on will be written, so you will in fact write more than that. The work to be evaluated will consist of the following:

1. An in-class essay quiz, which will count for 20% of your term mark. This will be open-book, which means: you can have anything on paper on your desk when you write. However - No electronic devices can be on your desk. There will be no make-up quiz. If you miss this quiz for an approved reason, that extra weight will be transferred to your Term Paper mark. This does not mean the quiz is optional; if you miss it without approval you will get a 0 which will count toward your final mark. This quiz will be given in class on November 12, and will cover material from the course up to that point. You will have two hours to write on a set of essay questions.

2. Three take-home writing assignments.

Essay Assignment 1: You will get an article and a set of questions about that article on Thursday, September 12. Your answers to those questions are due at the start of class on Thursday, September 19. This first assignment will count for 10% of your mark.

Essay Assignment 2: You will get a set of essay questions about the course material to date on October 8, and your answers will be due on October 15 at the start of class. This will also count for 10% of your mark.
Essay Assignment 3: You will write an exposition of some scholarly paper that is related to the course material. The paper you choose 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 3 can be found on the website under Resources/Quiz and Assignment Information. This Essay Assignment is due at the start of class on November 21, and will count for 20% of your mark.

No late assignments will be accepted.

3. A term paper. This will be 14+ typed pages (about 3500 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/Quiz and Assignment Information, 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 26, and it is due at 3:00pm on Thursday, December 14.

Penalty for a late Term paper will be a 20% reduction in the mark if I do not have it in my hand at the due date, and another 20% for each day beyond that.

Plagiarism - is copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own. This includes the words and ideas of your classmates as well as those you find in written or online material. Any instance of plagiarism in this class will result in my doing everything I can to insure the perpetrator receives the maximum penalty.

4. Class participation. As you will find out, I run an interactive class, which includes asking questions of specified class members. This means you need to come to class having read what is expected of you, and be ready to participate in the class session. I will both take attendance at each class and keep track of your participation. This 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, or from an indicated website. We will not come close to discussing all of the readings on this list. Many are there simply to give you a place to start looking for papers to use for Assignment 3 and the Term Paper. I will keep you abreast of which papers from each section you need to read as we go.

I. To Vote or Not to Vote? Theory and Data

A. A first look at data on voting

IDEA data on turnout (http://www.idea.int)

*US Census Bureau, 2009, ‘Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2008’

*Elgot, J, 2016, ‘Young remain voters came out in force but were outgunned’, The Guardian, July 19.


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

*Slivinski, A, 2019, ‘Notes on Voting Theory’.


C. Theory meets data


*Statistics Canada, 2016, ‘Reasons for not voting in the federal election, October 19, 2015’


D. Compulsory voting


‘Compulsory voting around the world: Executive summary’, 2006, The Electoral Commission, United Kingdom


*“Mike Rowe Shares his Wise Opinion on Voting”, October 12, 2016, www.outdoorhub.com


*A. Barton Hinkle, 2016, ‘No, You Don't Have an Obligation to Vote’, Reason.com


E. 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 issues connected with strategic voting]


*‘CUPE Slams Leadnow For Encouraging Canadians To 'Vote Together’’,Posted: 04/13/2015, Huffington Post.ca


II. Information and the Media in Politics


*‘Does political advertising work?’ , The Economist, Feb 6th 2016
III. Electoral systems and their impact

A. Definitions and Data


B. Why it (might) matter


*‘Why Proportional Representation: A look at the evidence’, 2015, *Fair Vote Canada*


IV. Financing Electoral Campaigns


Matter, U and M Slotwinski, 2016, ‘Precise Control over Legislative Vote Outcomes: A Forensic Approach to Political Economics’ *CESIFO WORKING PAPER NO. 6007*

*Gerson, J. 2016, ‘Putting too tight of a cap on election spending and donations could do more harm than good’, August 10, *The National Post*


V. Corruption in Government


*‘Corruption Perceptions Index’, 2015, *Transparency International*

*‘Corruption Perceptions Index: Technical Methodology Note’, 2015, *Transparency International*


*‘Procurement Spending – Rigging the Bids’, 2016, *The Economist*


Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they 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 an official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.

4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

   Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.

6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14

   Please note the relevant deadlines.

   The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. A 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:

   Deadline to add a first term half course:       Friday September 13, 2019
   Deadline to drop a first term half course:     Tuesday November 12, 2019

9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policy on Tests, Final Exams and on Missed Academic Responsibilities

Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is not permitted. Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements due to extenuating circumstances can follow Western University procedures to request academic consideration through the following routes:

   a) Submit a Self-Reported Absence form if the conditions for submission are met (e.g., only for exams or assessments worth 30% or less of the course mark; not applicable to final exams; maximum 2 self-reported absences per academic year; see link for full list of conditions and info).

If the conditions for submission of a Self-Reported Absence form are not met, then:

   b) For medical absences, submit a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner along with a request for academic consideration to Academic Counselling in the student’s home Faculty (see link for full info); or

   c) For non-medical absences (e.g., religious or compassionate), submit appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in the student’s home Faculty (see link for full info).

It is strongly recommended that students notify their instructors as soon as possible. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment to meet with their instructor as soon as possible. If the instructor is not available, send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca.
Note: Academic consideration is not normally intended for long-term, recurring absences, an existing disability, or high levels of stress related to academic performance. In such cases, students should consult their academic counsellor. See link for full information. In all cases, if the documentation submitted to request academic consideration is not acceptable, students will receive a grade of zero for the missed test, exam, or assignment.

For full information about Western University’s policies and procedures for student absences and requests for academic consideration, please visit this link.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

The Faculty of Social Science’s policies regarding academic accommodation is found at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html. “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” are also outlined in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=. 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 the instructor deems a student’s class attendance as unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, the student will be notified in writing.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.
Guidelines for Essay Courses

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

To pass an essay course students must exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing in addition to comprehension of the course content.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades
Written work that demonstrates a lack of English proficiency will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable level.

To foster competence in the English language, all instructors will take English proficiency into account when marking. This policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

Recycling of Assignments
Students are prohibited from handing in the same paper for two different courses. Doing so is considered a scholastic offence and will be subjected to academic penalties.

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.”

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:

- Submitting someone else’s work as your own
- Buying a paper from a mill, website or other source and submitting it as your own
- Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without citing them
- Replacing selected words from a passage and using it as your own without citing them
- Copying multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without citing them
- Piecing together phrases and ideas from a variety of sources to without citing them
- Building on someone else’s ideas or phrases without citing them

Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the course, and expulsion from the university.

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1From 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/
Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to [http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). This is a service that assists instructors in detecting plagiarism.

Students seeking further guidance on avoiding plagiarism should consult their instructor. Claiming ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly cite reference sources.

**Referencing and Citation Guidelines**


Economics papers often use the **author-date** style of references. Further details and examples of this style are available in chapter 15 of the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*. See also the handy “Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide” under Tools on the homepage.

In the body of an essay, in-text citations list the last names of the authors of the piece that are referenced, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. In-text citations refer the reader to a complete list of bibliographic references at the end of the essay. Papers that cite multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year should add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and References (e.g., 1993a and 1993b). In doing so, the in-text citation points the reader to the relevant work.

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 list of references at the end of the essay should be titled References or Works Cited. It provides complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students 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 References.

Below are examples of the author-date style. For sources with two or more authors, only the first author’s name is inverted and a comma appears before and after the first author’s given name or initial.
1. BOOKS:


2. JOURNAL ARTICLES OR ARTICLES IN A BANK REVIEW:


3. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS:


4. NEWSPAPERS:


5. CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS OR CONFERENCE VOLUMES:


6. ONLINE BOOKS:


7. ONLINE JOURNAL ARTICLES: please use DOI (digital object identifier) or URL


8. INTERNET SITES:

Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor’s instructions and published work written by Economists. Examples are in the course outline, journals, working papers series, etc.

Two sources that provide information on writing for economics are:


Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

The Resources Link on Western University’s Department of Economics website (http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html) provides a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc.

DB Weldon Library has a collection of bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals in economics. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage http://www.lib.uwo.ca/. These can be accessed off-campus with the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

Students are encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about where sources of information are located both physically and online. Consult library staff for questions.

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is the most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today. 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 an electronic bibliography of literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, collected articles, books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. It also provides citations, selected abstracts, and links to Western’s full-text resources. Students can also print records by downloading marked records to a text file, sending marked records by email, or exporting them to a citation manager such as Zotaro. For a list of citation software, see https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/citationmanagementsoftware.html.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's database of time series data covering a variety of economic aspects of Canadian society. Access the database by a Title Search on the Western Library’s Catalogue, or from the Library’s list of Databases under “Research Tools” on the Library’s homepage.

Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER) The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review, a journal published annually by the Department that showcases student work in economics. For further information, please visit http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html
**Essay Prize in Economics**

The following criteria will be used:

1. Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once.

2. Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic term. One for a student registered in a 2100 level course and one for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at $500.

3. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own paper award.

4. 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.

5. 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 appeal.

6. 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: January 1\textsuperscript{st}
- Winter courses: May 1\textsuperscript{st}

*The winner of the essay prize is encouraged to submit their paper to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.*