

Introduction to Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
PPE 2200F

September-December 2022
UC 1105

Instructors: Dennis Klimchuk (Philosophy), Charles Jones (Political Science), and Bruno Salcedo (Economics)

Office Hours:

Klimchuk: Wednesdays 10:00 – 12:00 or by appointment: StvH 4150, klimchuk@uwo.ca

Jones: Tuesdays 2-3, Wednesdays 1:30 – 2:30 or by appointment: SSC 7213 [cjwones@uwo.ca](mailto:cwjones@uwo.ca)

Salcedo: Tuesdays 10:00 – 12:00 or by appointment: SSC 4058, bsalcedo@uwo.ca

Class Meetings: Monday 11:30 – 1:30 & Wednesday 12:30 – 1:30

Description of the course: This course is designed to get you thinking and writing carefully about a number of social issues, while also introducing you to the ways in which the three disciplines approach them. In the Philosophy sections our topics are scarcity and property; in the Politics sections, our topics are distributive justice, the free market, economic growth, and the welfare state, and in the Economics section, our topics are rational choice, information, inequality, and marginal markets. There is one common topic considered in each section: poverty. For each topic you will be expected to read the assigned readings, to come to class prepared to discuss those readings, and then to write essays in which you put the ideas discussed to use.

Texts: All readings will be available on the course OWL site, with one exception. Sept 21-28, you will be discussing Samuel Fleischacker, *A Short History of Distributive Justice* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004). It is available for purchase at the Western Bookstore.

Course requirements and evaluation

1. Three 1500 word essays, each counting for 20% of your course mark. Instructions for each paper will be given to you by each of the three instructors during their section of the course, and posted on OWL. They are due on the following dates: **October 3, November 9, December 7.**

You must upload an e-copy of your essay into OWL by the start of class that day. Papers handed in late are penalized at the rate of 2%/day late, calculated from this time. We will use *turnitin.com* in this course.

2. A final exam consisting of three essay questions, to be scheduled by the Registrar, will make up the other 40% of your final mark.

Participation

While there is no formal participation grade in the mark, please understand that you are expected to participate in discussions of the readings and topics. While a second-year course, the format and size of this class allow us to run it more like an upper-year seminar. There will be a forum open on the course OWL page to discuss the material, and we encourage you to do so ahead of class meetings. This will, among other things, give us some notice on what you find interesting, wrong, perplexing, and so on, which will be helpful in preparing our classes.

A note on readings

We'd like to strongly encourage you to do the readings before class, even if in some particular cases they seem challenging. This is especially (but not only) true for material you've not come across before. If you wait until class, you will lose an opportunity you will never be able to regain, namely reading the texts without a particular interpretation in mind. After class you won't be able to do that. It will be like reading the novel after seeing the movie: you can't help but picture the screenwriter's and director's interpretations. Furthermore, in our experience, students who come to the material without preconceptions often have novel insights into it. So by reading first you may be bringing something extra to the class's collective understanding of the text.

Schedule of topics and readings

Philosophy 1 (Klimchuk: Sept 7-19)

Scarcity

1. Mon Sept 12

Nicholas Xenos, *Scarcity and Modernity* (London: Routledge, 1989), 1-5.

Lionel Robbins, “The Subject Matter of Economics,” *An Essay on the Nature and Significance of Economic Science* (New York: NYU Press, 1984), 1-23. [1932]

2. Wed Sept 14

David Hume, *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, 3.1. [1751]

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* re. ed. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999), 109-10.

3. Mon Sept 19

Greg Bognar, “Scarcity,” *International Journal of Ethics* (John Wiley and Sons, 2018).

David Faraci, "Do Property Rights Presuppose Scarcity?" *Journal of Business Ethics* 125 (2014), 531-37.

Politics 1 (Jones: Sept 21-28)

Distributive Justice

4. Wed Sept 21

Samuel Fleischacker, *A Short History of Distributive Justice*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004, Introduction & Chapter 1: From Aristotle to Adam Smith, 1-52.

5. Mon Sept 26

Samuel Fleischacker, *A Short History of Distributive Justice*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004, Chapter 2: The Eighteenth Century, 53-79.

6. Wed Sept 28

Samuel Fleischacker, *A Short History of Distributive Justice*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004, Chapter 3: From Babeuf to Rawls & Epilogue, 80-133.

Philosophy 2 (Klimchuk: Oct 3-17)

Property

7. Mon Oct 3

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* Bk II, ch 5. [1689]

David Schmidtz, "The Institution of Property," Schmidtz and Willot (eds.), *Environmental Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 361-66.

8. Wed Oct 5

David Hume, handout on convention

Hugo Grotius, *Commentary on the Law of Prize and Booty* ed. and with an Introduction by Martine Julia van Ittersum (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 2006), 315-20. [1868, written in 1609]

Thanksgiving Mon Oct 10

9. Wed Oct 12

Ploof v Putnam, 81 Vt. 471, 71 A. 188 (1908).

Vincent v Lake Erie, 109 Minn. 456, 124 N.W. 221 (1910).

Hugo Grotius, *The Rights of War and Peace*, Vol. 2, edited and with an Introduction by Richard Tuck, from the Edition by Jean Barbeyrac (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 2005), 420-53. [1625]

Common Topic: Poverty

10. Mon Oct 17

Locke, *Two Treatise of Government*, Bk. I, ch. 4, para 42. [1689]

Thomas Paine, “Agrarian Justice,” *The Writings of Thomas Paine* Vol. 3 (New York: G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1895), 328-44. [1797]

Jeremy Waldron, “Community and Property — For Those Who Have Neither,” *Theoretical Inquiries in Law* 10 (2009), 161-92.

Politics 2 (Jones: Oct 19-Nov 9)

The Free Market

11. Wed Oct 19

Jonathan Wolff, *Ethics and Public Policy*, second edition, 2020, Chapter 9: ‘The free market’, 176-193.

Economic Growth

12. Mon Oct 24

Gregory Mankiw, ‘The GDP and its discontents’, *Science* 353 (2016), 356.

Tyler Cowen, *Stubborn Attachments: A Vision for a Society of Free, Prosperous, and Responsible Individuals*, San Francisco: Stripe Press, 2018, Chapter 2: Wealth makes the world go round.

13. Wed Oct 26

Rose, Julie L., 'On the Value of Economic Growth', *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* 19 (2), May 2020, 128-153.

Reading Week: Oct 31 - Nov 6

The Welfare State

14. Mon Nov 7

Moon, J. Donald, 'The Idea of the Welfare State', in George Klosko (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, 660-672.

Matt Zwolinski, 'The Welfare State', in Matt Zwolinski and Benjamin Ferguson (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Libertarianism*, London: Routledge, 2022, 311-324.

Common Topic: Poverty

15. Wed Nov 9

Jonathan Wolff, 'Poverty', *Philosophy Compass*, December 2019.

Economics (Salcedo; Nov 14 – Dec 7)

Rational, Behavioral, and Moral choice

16. Mon Nov 14

17. Wed Nov 16

Common Topic: Inequality, Measurement and Poverty

18. Mon Nov 21

19. Wed Nov 23

Information and Attention

20. Mon Nov 28

21. Wed Nov 30

Markets on the margin

22. Mon Dec 5

23. Wed Dec 7

Please Note
Department & University Policies for Fall 2022

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, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the **“Rules of Conduct for Examinations”** http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
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 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 to the instructor.
6. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in 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.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals. 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 to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

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 16, 2022**
- Deadline to drop a first term half course: **Saturday, November 12, 2022**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

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.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).
- **Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted:** 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 also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **24 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**
- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

- **Documentation for Accommodation:** Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here: https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html
- **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

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.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unit may require Western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.