

**Introduction to Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
PPE 2200F**

**September-December 2024
SSC 3014**

Instructors: Michael Milde (Philosophy), Charles Jones (Political Science), Bruno Salcedo (Economics)

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

Office Hours:

Milde: Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00, and by appointment: StvH 3141, mmilde@uwo.ca

Jones: Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00, and by appointment: SSC 7213 cwjones@uwo.ca

Salcedo: Day, Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00, Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00, and by appointment: SSC 4058, bsalcedo@uwo.ca

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 section we start by looking at a classic question from Plato: what is justice? We then trace a line from this analysis to the work of political theorists of the 17th and 20th centuries and consider various topics, including the circumstances of justice and social contract theory. In the Politics section, our topics are justice and social cooperation, status inequality, stigmatization, migration and multiculturalism, and race relations. In the Economics section, we will discuss the use and limitations of empirical evidence, rational-agent models, and social welfare criteria to evaluate public policies. 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 Brightspace site, with one exception: Joseph Heath, *Cooperation and Social Justice*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2022. 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 Brightspace. They are due the last class of each section of the course: **Oct 2 for Philosophy, Nov 6 for Political Science, and Dec 4 for Economics.**

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

2. A final in-person 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, please understand that you are expected to participate in discussions of the readings and topics. While this is a second-year course, its format and size allow us to run it more like an upper-year seminar. There will be time during class for you to raise questions, suggest interpretations, and challenge arguments. We want to know what you find interesting, wrong, and perplexing.

A note on readings

We 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 (Milde: Sept 9- Oct 2) Please note that ALL readings for this section are online.

Plato's *Republic*: What is Justice?

1. Mon Sept 9

Readings

Plato Republic

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1497/1497-h/1497-h.htm>

Book 1 and Book 2

Taking Glaucon seriously: Hobbes

2. Wed Sept 11

Readings

Hobbes *Leviathan* (Select sections of chapters, as indicated)

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/3207/3207-h/3207-h.htm>

Chapter X – *Power*

Chapter XI – *A Restlesse Desire of Power, in All Men*

Chapter XIII – all of it

3. Mon Sept 16

Readings

Hobbes *Leviathan* continued

Chapter XIV

From *Right of Nature What to Covenant What*

Chapter XVII – all of it

Taking Glaucon seriously: Locke

4. Wed Sept 18

Readings

Locke *Second Treatise of Government*

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/7370/7370-h/7370-h.htm?ref=americanpurpose.com>

Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5

5. Mon Sept 23

Readings

Locke *Second Treatise* continued

Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 19

A modern liberal approach to the same: Rawls

6. Wed Sept 25

Readings

Rawls *A Theory of Justice*

<https://giuseppicapograssi.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/rawls99.pdf>

Chapter 3 - pp.102-139

Note: No class on Monday September 30th, 2024. No teaching at Western today (National day for truth and reconciliation)

Common Topic: Poverty (food waste and food insecurity)

7. Wed Oct 2

Video documents

CBC Marketplace videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLqkV8cP4xs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcYpc81FE6U>

Political Science (Jones: Oct 7 – Nov 6)

Common Topic: Poverty

8. Mon Oct 7

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

Cooperation and Social Justice

9. Wed Oct 9

Joseph Heath, *Cooperation and Social Justice*, Introduction.

Reading Week: October 12 - 20, 2024

10. Mon Oct 21

G. A. Cohen, *Why not Socialism?*

11. Wed Oct 23

Joseph Heath, *Cooperation and Social Justice*, 'On the Scalability of Cooperative Structures', 12-64.

12. Mon Oct 28

Joseph Heath, *Cooperation and Social Justice*, 'Egalitarianism and Status Hierarchy', 106-162.

13. Wed Oct 30

Joseph Heath, *Cooperation and Social Justice*, 'A Defence of Stigmatization', 162-199.

14. Mon Nov 4

Joseph Heath, *Cooperation and Social Justice*, 'A Unified Theory of Border Control and Reasonable Accommodation', 200-251.

15. Wed Nov 6

Joseph Heath, *Cooperation and Social Justice*, 'Two Dilemmas for US Race Relations', 252-314.

Economics (Salcedo: Nov 11 – Dec 4)

Evidence-Based Policy

16. Mon Nov 11

Gilboa, Postlewaite, Samuelson, & Schmeidler (2014) Economic Models as Analogies. *The Economic Journal*.

Krugman (2008) *The Increasing Returns Revolution in Trade and Geography*. Nobel Lecture.

Lucas (1976) *Economic Policy Evaluation: A Critique*, pp. 19 to 20.

17. Wed Nov 13

Angrist & Krueger (2001) *Instrumental Variables and the Search for Identification: From Supply and Demand to Natural Experiments*. Journal of Economic Perspectives.

Rational, Behavioural, or Moral Agents?

18. Mon Nov 18

Salcedo (2024) *Rational, Behavioural, and Moral Agents in Economics*.

Correspondence of Nicholas Bernoulli Concerning the St. Petersburg Paradox (1713-1732)

19. Wed Nov 20

Axelrod (1985) *The Evolution of Cooperation*. Chapters 1 and 6 (pp. 3-25 and 109-123).

Gilboa (2009) *Free Will and Determinism* in Theory of Decision under Uncertainty (pp. 5-12). Cambridge University University Press.

Social Welfare

20. Mon Nov 25

Samuelson (1947) *Foundations of Economic Analysis*. Chapter 3.

Arrow (1950) *A difficulty in the concept of social welfare*. The Journal of Political Economy

Frey (2002) *What Can Economists Learn from Happiness Research?* Journal of Economic Literature

Bond and Lang (2019) *The Sad Truth about Happiness Scales*. The Journal of Political Economy.

21. Wed Nov 27

Gul & Persendorfer (2008) *The Case for Mindless Economics*. In: The Foundations of Positive and Normative Economics: A Handbook. Oxford University Press.

Camera (2008) *The Case for Mindful Economics*. In: The Foundations of Positive and Normative Economics: A Handbook. Oxford University Press.

Governments vs Markets

22. Mon Dec 2

Hayek (1945) *The Use of Knowledge in Society*. The American Economic Review.

Niederle & Roth (2007) *The effects of a centralized clearinghouse on job placement, wages, and hiring practices*. In Studies of Labor Market Intermediation. University of Chicago Press.

Common Topic: Poverty

23. Wed Dec 4

Chancel & Piketty (2021) *Global Income Inequality, 1820-2020: The Persistence and Mutation of Extreme Inequality*. Mimeo

Davies & Di Matteo (2020) *Long Run Canadian Wealth Inequality in International Context*. The Review of Income and Wealth.

Autor (2014) *Skills, education, and the rise of earnings inequality among the "other 99 percent"*.
Science

Please Note
Department & University Policies for Fall 2024

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 full or half course: **Fri, Sept 13, 2024**
- Deadline to WITHDRAW from a first term full or half course: **Tues, Nov 12, 2024**

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 unity 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.