

Introduction to Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
PPE 2200F

September-December 2020

Instructors: D. Klimchuk, C. Jones, and A. Slivinski

Office Hours:

Klimchuk: StvH 3145, Wednesdays 10-12, klimchuk@uwo.ca

Jones: SSC 4129, Wednesdays 1:30-3:00, or by appointment, cwjones@uwo.ca

Slivinski: SSC 4089, Wednesdays 1:30-3:30, or by appointment, aslivins@uwo.ca

Class Meetings: Monday 11:30 – 1:30 & Wednesday 12:30 – 1:30, via Zoom

Description of the course: This course is designed to get you to thinking and writing carefully about a number of social issues, while also introducing you to the ways in which the three disciplines approach them. For each issue you will be expected to read the assigned readings on that issue written by practitioners of one or more of those disciplines, to come to class prepared to discuss those readings, and then to write essays in which you put the ideas discussed to use.

Text: There is no textbook. All readings will be available on the course OWL site.

Course requirements and evaluation

1. Three 1,500 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 5, November 11, December 9.**

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. Three participation marks. In each of the three instructors' sections of the course, each student is expected to *ask a minimum of one substantive question each week*. Such questions can be asked during a lecture or submitted to the instructor via email. In any week in which any student does not meet this participation requirement, one percentage point will be deducted from the maximum they can receive for their essay. Thus a student who asks no questions during Slivinski's section of the course can get a maximum of 16 points toward their final mark on their essay for Slivinski.

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

Schedule of topics

Philosophy (Klimchuk; Sept 9-Oct 5)

Weeks 1 and 2: Political Authority

Mon Sept 9 Plato, *Crito*

Wed Sept 11 Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Bk I, chs 1-6

Mon Sept 16 Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*, Bk. II, ch 2, paras 4, 6, 7; ch 7, paras 95-101, 119-22
Hume, “Of the Original Contract”

Wed Sept 18 Simmons, “The Principle of Fair Play”

Weeks 3 and 4: Property

Mon Sept 23 Locke, *Two Treatise of Government*, ch 5.
Schmidtz, “The Institution of Property”

Wed Sept 25 Hume, handout on convention
Grotius, *Commentary on the Law of Prize and Booty*, pp. 315-21

Mon Sept 30 Grotius, *On the Rights of War and Peace*, Bk II, ch 2.
Thomas Paine, “Agrarian Justice”

Wed Oct 2 **Common topic: Poverty**
Locke, *Two Treatise of Government*, Bk. I, ch. 4, para 42.
Essert, “Property and Homelessness”

Politics (Jones; Oct 7-Nov 11)

{ **Note to Charles - Reading Week: Nov 2-8**}

Week 5: Markets

Mon Oct 7

1. Market Advantages

Adam Smith, ‘Of the Division of Labour’, from *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, 1776, Book I, Chapter I-III, <https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/smith-an-inquiry-into-the-nature-and-causes-of-the-wealth-of-nations-cannan-ed-vol-1>

Friedrich Hayek, ‘The Use of Knowledge in Society’, *American Economic Review* 35 (4), 1945, 519-530, <https://www.econlib.org/library/Essays/hykKnw.html>

Leonard Read, 'I, Pencil', *The Freeman* 1958, <https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/read-i-pencil-my-family-tree-as-told-to-leonard-e-read-dec-1958>

2. Market Fairness

Thomas Aquinas, 'Of Fraudulent Dealing in Buying and Selling', in *Summa Theologica*, 1265, <https://oll.libertyfund.org/pages/aquinas-on-fraudulent-dealing>

John Locke, 'Venditio', 1695, <https://reconstructingeconomics.com/2014/06/06/venditio-by-john-locke/>

Adam Smith, 'Of the Expences of the Sovereign or Commonwealth', from *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, 1776, Book V, Chapter I, Parts I and II (Articles 1 and 2), and Conclusion, <https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/smith-an-inquiry-into-the-nature-and-causes-of-the-wealth-of-nations-cannan-ed-vol-2>

Wed Oct 9

Market Failures

Tyler Cowen, 'Public Goods', 2008, <https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/PublicGoods.html>

Jonathan Anomaly, 'Public Goods and Government Action', *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics* 14 (2), 2015, 109-128.

David Friedman, 'Market Failures', from *Price Theory*, 1990, http://www.daviddfriedman.com/Academic/Price_Theory/PThy_Chapter_18/PThy_Chap_18.html

Week 6: Justice

Mon Oct 14: Thanksgiving: No class today

Wed Oct 16

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, 1861, Chapter II (What Utilitarianism Is), paragraphs 1-10, and Chapter V (On the Connexion between Justice and Utility), <https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/mill-the-collected-works-of-john-stuart-mill-volume-x-essays-on-ethics-religion-and-society>

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, 1971, sections 1-6 (pp. 3-33) and sections 11, 24, 26 (pp. 60-65, 136-142, and 150-161).

Week 7: Justice

Mon Oct 21

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (again)

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, 1974, Preface (pp. ix-xiv) and Chapter 7:

Distributive Justice (pp. 149-231).

Wed Oct 23 **Common Topic: Poverty**

Jonathan Wolff et al., 'A Philosophical Review of Poverty', Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2015, <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/philosophical-review-poverty>

Week 8: Equality

Mon Oct 28

Harry Frankfurt, 'Equality as a Moral Ideal', *Ethics* 1987, 21-43,

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2381290.pdf>

Paula Casal, 'Why Sufficiency is Not Enough', *Ethics* 117 (2007), 296-327,

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.1086/510692.pdf>

Wed Oct 30

Elizabeth Anderson, 'What is the Point of Equality?', 1999,

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.1086/233897.pdf>

Economics (Slivinski; Nov 16-Dec 9)

Weeks 9-10 Rational Choice: Crime, Voting and Altruism

Engelen, B, 2006, "Solving the paradox: The expressive rationality of the decision to vote", *Rationality and Society*, Vol. 18(4): 419–441.

Friedman, David, "[Rational Criminals and Profit-Maximizing Police: Gary Becker's Contribution to the Economic Analysis of Law and Law Enforcement](#)" in *The New Economics of Human Behavior*, Mariano Tommasi and Kathryn Ierulli, editors, Cambridge University Press, 1995, pp. 43-58.

Program profile of the Minneapolis HotSpots experiment, National Institute of Justice

Vesterlund, L, 2006, "Why do people give?" in *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook*, Yale University Press

Harbaugh, W, 1998, "The Prestige Motive for Making Charitable Transfers", *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 88, No. 2, pp. 277-282

Week 11: Common Topic: Poverty

Atkinson, A, 2015, "Inequality – what can be done?" *LSE International Inequalities Institute Working paper 2*

Thomas Straubhaar, 2017, "On the Economics of a Universal Basic Income", *Intereconomics*

Heiner Flassbeck, 2017, "Universal Basic Income Financing and Income Distribution – The Questions Left Unanswered by Proponents" *Intereconomics*

Week 12: Markets on the Margins

Sex:

Panesar, S. 2018, "Rethinking Red Lights: Economics of Prostitution Laws", *ecotalker*, 27 Sep 2018, <https://ecotalker.wordpress.com/2018/09/27/rethinking-red-lights-economics-of-prostitution-laws/>

Arunachalam, R M Shah, 2008, "Prostitution and Brides?" *American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings* 2008, 98:2, 516–522

Drugs:

Miron, J and J Zwiebel, 1995, "The Economic Case Against Drug Prohibition" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Volume 9, Number 4—Pages 175–192

Block, W, 1993, "Drug Prohibition: A Legal and Economic Analysis" *Journal of Business Ethics* 12: 089--700,

Rock'n'roll:

Courty, P, 2003, "Some Economics of Ticket Resale", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17:85-97.

Happel, S. K.; Jennings, M. M. (1995). "The folly of anti-scalping laws". *Cato Journal*, 15(1), 65-80