

Senior Seminar in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
PPE 4100E-01
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2023

Instructor: Rory McGee
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Office hours: *Students should reserve an appointment slot. Office hours will be held in-person and via zoom*

Delivery mode: *In-person*
Meeting time(s): *Tuesday 4:30-5:30PM*
Thursday 4:30-6:30PM
PLEASE NOTE: We will not meet during every one of these class sessions throughout the year. A preliminary schedule is below.

Classroom: UC-3225
Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

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/Antirequisite Note:

The prerequisites for this course are **PPE 2200F/G; Students must be in the fourth year of the Honours Specialization in Politics, Philosophy and Economics.**

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites 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 Description:

This course is designed to get you thinking about and – most importantly - writing about public policy issues in ways that use the skills you have acquired across politics, philosophy and economics. To this end, we will also be focused on developing your ability to provide useful and constructive feedback on analysis of public policy issues. The ultimate outcome of this course will be a research paper that uses the tools of at least two disciplines. To prepare you for that, the first term is set in a seminar format in which we will discuss a number of preliminary issues that relate to analyses of social issues.

These include:

1. The evaluation of policy and the 'public interest'.
2. Public policy decisions at the intersection of P, P and E
3. The roles of theory, evidence, data and statistics in public policy
4. Critiquing writing on public policy; your own and others

You will then get a chance to read and comment on a topic that I will lecture and assign readings on, as a sort of 'trial run'. After that you will be given the freedom to work on your own research. We will continue to meet at intervals throughout the year to provide structured feedback on your research and continue to develop your skills.

Course Objectives:

To produce independent research drawing on PPE.

Course Learning Outcomes:

The main learning outcome of this course will be a final paper. The course is divided into multiple phases spread throughout the year to prepare you for writing this final paper.

A tentative outline of the year is provided below. All due dates below are tentative.

Fall Term

The Fall term will be divided into two phases. Phase I (Weeks 1-8) will consist of McGee led seminars. Phase II (Weeks 10-14) will consist of student led seminars focusing on Social Question Synopses.

A tentative outline is provided below. When the week indicates No Class, there will be no class held. When the week indicates Slack Class, this is a class in which there is currently no scheduled topic. It may be used to cover material we did not complete, additional material, meet with students 1 on 1, or have no held class. This is at the instructor's discretion and students are expected to keep Slack Classes free and be available to attend class. In the event that no class is held during a Slack Class the instructor will endeavor to provide notice to the students.

Week	Date	
1	Sept. 7	Intro, Course Overview, Topic I
2	Sept. 12 & 14	Topic II
3	Sept. 19 & 21	Topic III
4	Sept. 26 & 28	Topic III
5	Oct. 3 & 5	Topic IV
6	Oct. 10 & 12	Slack
7	Oct. 17 & 21	Slack / My SQS
8	Oct. 24 & 26	Slack
9	Oct. 31 & Nov. 2	Reading Week – No Class
10	Nov. 7 & 9	No Class
11	Nov. 14 & 16	SQS Presentations
12	Nov. 21 & 23	SQS Presentations
13	Nov. 28 & Nov. 30	SQS Presentations
14	Dec. 5 & 7	No Class

Due dates for the fall term written submissions are:

Week	Date	
<i>Due Date is 5PM London, ON Time on Date Listed</i>		
2	Sept. 11	Substantive Questions Due for Class Participation Grade
3	Sept. 18	Substantive Questions Due for Class Participation Grade
4	Sept. 25	Substantive Questions Due for Class Participation Grade
5	Oct. 3	Villegas Thesis Commentary Due
10	Nov. 10	SQS Written Submission Due
14	Dec. 8	SQS Commentary Due

All submissions are required through OWL.

Winter Term

The winter term will focus on the development and discussion of student research papers. During this term students will develop and complete a research project on a social question of their

choice. Wisdom and convenience both suggest that this can be a continuation and elaboration of the SQS developed in the first term, but that is not a requirement. There will be fewer class meetings this term than in the Fall, under the presumption that your time is best spent researching and writing. However, there will be three milestones throughout the term at which work must be submitted to me, and at Milestone 2 the class will gather for three weeks (approximately) to hear interim research reports from their peers and provide them with feedback.

Tentative class dates are:

Week	Date	
8	Feb 27. & Mar. 1	Interim Project Report (IPR) Presentations
9	Mar. 6 & 8	IPR Presentations
10	Mar. 13 & 15	IPR Presentations

Tentative due dates for the winter term written submissions are:

Week	Date	
<i>Due Date is 5PM London, ON Time on Date Listed</i>		
2	Jan. 15	Research Project Proposal
8	Feb. 26	Interim Project Report Due
11	Mar. 20	IPR Commentary Due
13	April. 2	Final Paper Due

All submissions are required through OWL.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Textbook(s) and Course Materials:

- A preliminary course outline for the topics we will cover throughout the semester is provided below. Required readings will be assigned on a weekly basis for each topic we cover in class. You should always read the assigned material prior to class in order to effectively engage in the class discussions.
- Class readings will be available on OWL

- When you begin your own research, published journal articles should be available online through the Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue or a search on Google Scholar (or the authors' websites).

Communication:

- You should check the course OWL site regularly to keep up to date on assigned readings.
- When sending emails, please put “PPE 4100” in the subject line.
- There will be a sign-up site for office hours. You should reserve a 15-minute appointment slot ahead of time, or two appointment slots if necessary. If you cannot make a scheduled office hours appointment, please be sure to cancel so that other students may take that time. If you need to attend office hours via Zoom as opposed to in-person, please add a note when you make your appointment.

Policy on use of AI:

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Essays, written assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the student’s own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing the essays and other written assessments.

Assessments and Grading:

Students should refer to the additional instruction document for more information on each component outlined below.

Note: Late assessments without official academic consideration will receive a late penalty.

Late Penalties: Due dates for the assignments are shown below and on the OWL site in the calendar. Grade penalties (out of 100) for late submissions are as follows:

1-24 hours late	-10 points
24-48 hours late	-30 points
48-72 hours late	-50 points
>72 hours late	no credit

Late penalties may be delayed or waived in consultation with the course coordinator in cases where students have followed the required procedures to obtain an approved, documented, official accommodation.

Fall Term

Class Participation (20%)

- Students are expected to attend all classes. One point will be subtracted from that maximum for each scheduled class session for which you are absent without an official accommodation.
- In addition, during the first part of the course, prior to **Oct 31** (Fall Reading Week), each student is required to send to me, via OWL, two substantive questions about the assigned reading material being discussed in class each week. Three marks will be subtracted from your participation mark for each question you fall short of two, for a maximum possible deduction of six marks. Note that by not submitting questions, and missing classes, one can end up with a negative participation mark.
- The question-submission requirement is not just to impose another task on you. Each question that is approved as substantive will be posted on the OWL site and taken up in class. Your questions will be part of what drives the class sessions. If it is a question to me, I may either answer it or ask the class for an answer, but if it is to another student, that student will get the first chance to answer it.
- Students who fail to submit designated commentaries on their peers works (see below) will also receive a 5% penalty.

Critique of Villegas (10%)

- Your first written assignment is to provide commentary on a finished thesis.
- Put yourself in the position of writing a report to the editor of the Western Undergraduate Review which indicates whether or not they should accept this paper for publication.
- Your goal in each critique is to be helpful to the author of the work on which you are commenting.
- More details are provided in the additional instructions document.

Social Question Synopsis (10%)

- Each student will be responsible for writing up a Social Question Synopsis (SQS). Instructions for this are in the Instructions document. Each student will distribute their written SQS to all members of the class, including me, and then also give a presentation on it that leads to a discussion
- The topic for the SQS is entirely up to the student. One option is to choose something related to one of the topics and readings provided, but you are free to choose almost any question. Whatever topic you choose, you must run your idea for your SQS by me before doing too much work on it. This is for reasons of quality control, but I might also be able to save you from going down a rabbit hole from which you cannot then escape.
- Grades for this part of the course will depend on both your presentation and written submission. It is students' responsibility to ensure that there are no technological issues with their presentation (see instructions)

Designated Commentary on Social Question Synopsis

- All students will be expected to participate in the discussion of each of their peers' synopses . In addition, I will designate one student as Designated Commentator (DC) for each SQS.
- The DC will have the additional duty of providing their own written commentary on the SQS they have been assigned. This Commentary is due to me on December 9 ,
- Instructions for the SQS DC are also in the Instructions document, and the schedule for them is laid out below.
- Any student who either (i) does not submit a Designated Commentary, (ii) submits a commentary that is not constructive, or (iii) submits a commentary that does not provide peer feedback will receive a 5% penalty applied to their participation grade.

Winter Term

Research Paper Proposal (10%) **Milestone 1**

- This is a 3-5 page exposition of what you plan to do for your final research project in the course. Detailed instructions are in the Instructions document and the due date is provided above
- I will provide written comments on your RPP and schedule a meeting during regular class time with each of you individually to discuss your proposal and where you plan to go with it. You will receive a mark for your RPP.

Interim Progress Report (15%) **Milestone 2**

- Each of you will prepare an Interim Project Report of 10-20 pages and then present your research to date to the class
- The length of your IPR will, naturally, depend on how far along your research and writing is. The focus here should be on clarity of ideas and purpose rather than on pages written. The point of this exercise is for you to put whatever you have done on paper and also present it to the class so that you can get useful feedback.
- Instructions for the IPR are also in the Instructions document, and the due date is provided above

Designated Commentary on Interim Progress Report

- Each student will again be assigned another student in the class as a Designated Commentator, and each DC will again be required to provide a written commentary to the student and to me. Both your IPR and the Commentary you write on a peer's IPR will be marked, and instructions for each are in the Instructions document.
- Any student who either (i) does not submit a Designated Commentary, (ii) submits a commentary that is not constructive, or (iii) submits a commentary that does not provide peer feedback will receive a 5% penalty applied to their participation grade.

Final Project (35%) **Milestone 3 – The Finish Line**

- Your final write-up of your analysis of your chosen consequential social question. There is no explicit page limit, but I would expect this to be *about* 25 pages excluding

- references and any diagrams or tables
- Detailed instructions are in the Instructions document

Students will not receive a passing grade if they do not hand in the Final Project.

- **Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.
- All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by **copyright**. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent of the instructor.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

- Complete all of the assigned readings and submit your questions prior to attending class.
- Attend class each week and engage in classroom discussions.

- If you are confused about a topic, ask questions during class or office hours – it is likely that others are also confused.
- Engage with your peers in a helpful and constructive manner.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for Fall 2023

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 OR DROP a first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 15, 2023**
 - Deadline to WITHDRAW from a first term full or half course: **Mon, Nov 13, 2023**

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.

Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses¹

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 Grades²

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.”³

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:⁴

- 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 from someone else’s work 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 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.

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

³Excerpted from HC Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, West Publishing Co., 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

⁴ Adapted from the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>

Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to <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

The Economics Department has adopted the citation guidelines used in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. You can find an online version on the Western Libraries website. Go to <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html> and click on 'style guides'. For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library's homepage.

Economics papers often use the in-text **author-date** style of citations and references. Details and examples of this style are shown 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 should provide complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This can be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Examples of the format and content of references can be found here:
<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ChicagoStyleAuthorDate.pdf>

Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor's instructions. Read published work written by economists, which will give you examples of the structure and content of economics writing. Examples are readings in the course outline, journals, working papers, etc.

Two helpful sources that give information about how to write for economics are:

McCloskey, Dierdre N. 2000. *Economical Writing*, 2nd edition. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.

Greenlaw, Steven A. 2006. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Doing Economic Research*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

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 link to a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc. Western Libraries has a very useful economics resource page <https://guides.lib.uwo.ca/economics>.

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

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

Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own essay award.

Instructors will nominate student essays for the prize. The essay should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner. 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.

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 instructor submissions are:

Fall courses: January 1st

Winter courses: May 1st

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.