

Introduction to Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
PPE 2200F

September-December 2021
AHB 1B06

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

Office Hours:

Klimchuk: Wednesday 10:00-12:00,* or by appointment, klimchuk@uwo.ca

Jones: Wednesdays 3:00-4:30 (ET), or by appointment, [cjwones@uwo.ca](mailto:cwjones@uwo.ca)

Slivinski: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 (ET), or by appointment, aslivins@uwo.ca

*For Klimchuk (only): Please use the Sign-up tool on the OWL page to schedule yourself in a slot during office hours. To set up a time outside of office hours, please get in touch via e-mail.

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 section (the first four weeks) our topics are scarcity, property, and poverty; in the Politics section (the middle three weeks), our topics are markets, workplace governance, justice, and poverty; and in the Economics section, our topics rational choice, poverty and inequality and marginal markets. Notice that there is topic common to all sections: 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.

Text: All readings will be available on the course OWL site, with one exception. In the Politics section, you will read a fair bit of one book, *Private Government* by Elizabeth Anderson. There will be copies available in the bookstore, and it is available online at Western library.

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 4, November 10, December 8.**

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, its format and size allow us to run it more like an upper-year seminar, and we do. 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.

Prof. Slivinski will be providing extra incentives for attendance and participation for the Economics section of the course, as follows:

Your essay for me will be marked out of 100, however the maximum mark you can get will be determined by your seminar participation as follows:

- 1 mark will be subtracted from your essay mark for each class session you fail to attend (if, as suspected, we are on Zoom by November, ‘attend’ means present on Zoom with your camera on).

- You are each required to email me **two** substantive questions on the class readings during the four weeks of the Econ segment of the course. 3 marks will be subtracted from your essay mark for each question that you fall short of the requirement, for a maximum possible deduction of 6. Questions that meet the ‘substantive’ standard will be posted on the Owl site, and taken up during lecture time.

A note on the 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 (Klimchuk: Sept 8-Oct 4)

Scarcity

Wed Sept 8

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]

Mon Sept 13

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

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

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

Wed Sept 15

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

Property

Mon Sept 20

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.

Wed Sept 22

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]

Mon Sept 27

Pierson v Post, 3 Caines 175 (1805).

Popov v Hayashi, 2002 WL 318333731.

Carol M. Rose, “Possession as the Origin of Property,” *The University of Chicago Law Review* 52 (1985), 74-88.

Wed Sept 29

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

Mon Oct 4

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 (Jones: Oct 6-Nov 10)

Markets

Wed Oct 6

Samuel Bowles, et al., ‘Competition and Coordination: The Invisible Hand’, in Samuel Bowles et al., *Understanding Capitalism: Competition, Command, and Change*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, fourth edition, 2018, 181-205.

Mon Oct 11: Thanksgiving: No class today

Wed Oct 13

Mariana Mazzucato, *The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public Versus Private Sector Myths*, New York: Public Affairs, 2015, Introduction and Chapter 3 (1-20 and 63-78).

Freedom, Equality, and Workplace Government

Mon Oct 18

Elizabeth Anderson, *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don't Talk about it)*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017, available at Weldon library website, and for purchase at the bookstore, 1-71.

Wed Oct 20

Elizabeth Anderson, *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don't Talk about it)*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017, available at Weldon library website, and for purchase at the bookstore, 75-144.

Justice

Mon Oct 25

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, 1971, sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 24, 26.

Samuel Freeman, 'Rawls on Distributive Justice and the Difference Principle', in Serena Olsaretti (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Distributive Justice*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018, 14-40.

Wed Oct 27

Jeremy Waldron, 'John Rawls and the Social Minimum', in Jeremy Waldron, *Liberal Rights*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993, 250-270.

Reading Week: Nov 1-7

Mon Nov 8

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Preface and Chapter 7, excerpt in Anomaly et al. (eds.), 317-344.

G. A. Cohen, ‘Robert Nozick and Wilt Chamberlain: How Patterns Preserve Liberty’, excerpt in Anomaly et al. (eds.), 345-349.

Common Topic: Poverty

Wed Nov 10

Jonathan Wolff, ‘Poverty’, *Philosophy Compass*, December 2019.

Economics (Slivinski; Nov 15-Dec 8)

Weeks 9-10: Evidence, Theory and Rational Choice

Slivinski, A, 2021, “The Fundamentals of Social (and other) Science: Theory, Evidence, Correlation and Causation”

Slivinski, A., 2021, “Rational Choice and Crime: Two Theories”

Klick, J and A Tabarrok, 2005, “Using Terror Alert Levels to Estimate the Effect of Police on Crime”, *Journal of Law and Economics*, 48: 267-279

Katz, G and I Levin, 2016, “A General Model of Abstention Under Compulsory Voting” *Political Research and Methods*, Vol 6, No. 3, 489–508 (excerpt?)

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

Week 11: Inequality and Poverty

Autor, D, 2014, “Skills, education, and the rise of earnings inequality among the ‘other 99 percent’,” *Science*, 344: 834-851

Slivinski, A, 2021, “Notes on UBI/NIT: program parameters and financing”

Robins, P, 1985, “A Comparison of the Labor Supply Findings from the Four Negative Income Tax Experiments” *The Journal of Human Resources* 20: 567-582

Widerquist, K, 2005, “A failure to communicate: what (if anything) can we learn from the negative income tax experiments?” *Journal of Socio-Economics*, 34: 49-81

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/>

Cunningham, S and S Manisha, 2018, “Decriminalizing Indoor Prostitution: Implications for Sexual Violence and Public Health”, *Review of Economic Studies*, **85**, 1683–1715

Drugs:

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

Ladegaard, I, 2018, “We Know Where You Are, What You Are Doing and We Will Catch You: Testing Deterrence Theory in Digital Drug Markets” *The British Journal of Criminology*, 58, Pages 414–433,

Rock’n’roll:

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

Towse, R. 2017, “Economics of music publishing: copyright and the market” *Journal of Cultural Economics* **41**, 403–420

Please Note
Department & University Policies for Fall 2021

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:

Thursday September 16, 2021

Deadline to drop a first term half course:

Friday November 12, 2021

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

- The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.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. Self-Reported Absences cannot be used once a student has proceeded to start to write a test or exam.
- **Self-Reported Absences:** Students will have two opportunities during the fall and winter terms to receive academic consideration if they self-report a missed assessment using the online self-reported absence portal, provided the following conditions are met: the assessment is missed due to an absence of no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted otherwise on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:
 - for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., final exams)
 - absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
 - assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
 - if the student has opened or started the test or exam
 - if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the fall/winter terms

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

- **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. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here: [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)
- **Student Medical Certificate (SMC):** This form is available here: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.
- **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.