

Capitalism and Democracy – 2102A  
Course Outline – Fall 2016

Course Instructor and Location:

Instructor: Rob Leone  
Office Hours: Tuesday – 12h30 to 13h30 (please e-mail for an appointment)  
Office: SSC 4140  
Telephone: 519-661-2111 ext. 84929  
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Lectures: Tuesday 10h30 to 12h20  
Classroom: TC 343

Course Overview & Learning Objectives:

This course will help get students to critically assess the ideas, issues and theories that shape our understanding of the relationship between capitalism and democracy. This will include a discussion of the economic, political and social aspects of capitalism and democracy, as well as the relationship of capitalism and democracy to such ends as freedom, equality and justice. One of the central questions explored in the course is whether capitalism and democracy are complementary and mutually reinforcing, or whether they are in an antagonistic relationship with one another. Particular attention will be devoted to such subjects as the welfare state, which plays an important role in maintaining stability in democratic and capitalist systems, and the relationship between capitalism and democracy in the age of globalization. The course will end with an in-depth analysis of the recent global financial crisis to get students to apply what they have learned to that situation.

By the end of the course, students will meet the following learning objectives:

1. Discuss the research and knowledge in Political Science is informed by research in other Social Sciences
2. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse theories and methodological approaches in political science
3. Acquire knowledge of major theories and concepts in three subfields and demonstrate in-depth knowledge of at least one
4. Demonstrate an awareness of how power, culture and history condition/influence knowledge formation in Political Science
5. Recognize the limits of their own political knowledge, in light of exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience
6. Recognize the ambiguity and uncertainty of Political Science; and understand the ubiquitous and controversial nature of politics
7. Be able to situate knowledge historically and contextually
8. Recognize the importance of listening

## Course Format

- A. Each class will be devoted to exploring the course material in detail by answering critical questions on different issues associated with democracy and capitalism.

## Assessment of Learning

Participation:	20%
Movie Reviews	10%
Mid-Term Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	40%

## Expectations:

Students are expected to attend lectures, read the required readings, and complete all of their tasks to the best of their ability, on time, and honestly. The principles of Western's policy on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Students should be aware of what constitutes a breach of academic honesty, and they should also be aware of other aspects of appropriate student conduct. It is expected that students attend every seminar, preferably on time.

Students who cannot complete any of the course requirements due to medical illness or bereavement are expected to follow university policies as early as possible. Students should be aware of the rules for acceptable practices in this regard.

## Participation:

Attendance will be recorded each week and the participation grade will be based on an assessment of each student's contribution to class discussion and attendance at seminars. Please note that ***regular participation in class discussions is essential***. The participation grade will be assigned in December. In addition, discussion forums may be added to the course OWL page for additional opportunities to participate. If, for some reason, you are unable to frequently participate, feel free to raise these concerns with your professor. Your professor will accept e-mail submissions on your thoughts provided that you are attending class and actively listening. Participation is worth 20% of your course grade. It will be distributed equally between showing up and the frequency and quality of your interventions.

## Movie Reviews:

There are many documentaries that explore concepts such as capitalism and democracy. In this class, you will be required to watch two documentaries and provide a review of the documentary and the points raised in them. Feel free to agree or disagree with the general thesis advanced in the documentaries. We will be using the forums section on OWL to post reviews so you will be able to comment on other reviews as you see fit as well. Please be respectful of your classmates even if you may disagree with the content being presented. This is worth 10% of your final grade.

### Midterm Test:

A midterm test will take place in-class **on October 25th**, and it will last one hour. Students will be provided with guidance on how to prepare for the midterm during lectures. The Midterm is worth 30% of the course grade.

### Final Exam:

Final exam will be scheduled for the Fall exam period. The exam will cover the entire course, although more material will be drawn from the second half of the course. Students will be provided guidance on how to prepare for the final exam during the last day of class. The final exam is worth 40% of the course grade.

### Required Textbooks:

- o Robert A. Dahl and Ian Shapiro. On Democracy. Yale University Press. 2015. (D)
- o Paul Bowles. Capitalism. Pearson Longman. 2012. (B)
- o Greg Albo, et al., In and Out of Crisis. Oakland: PM Press, 2010. (A)

### Schedule of Lectures:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title of Lecture</b>	<b>Assigned Reading</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	September 13	Introduction to the Course	None assigned
<b>Week 2</b>	September 20	Introduction to Capitalism and Democracy I	B Chapter 1 and 4 DS Chapter 1, 2, 3, and 4
<b>Week 3</b>	September 27	Introduction to Capitalism and Democracy II	DS Chapter 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9
<b>Week 4</b>	October 4	Exploring the Relationship	DS Chapter 12, 13, and 14
<b>Week 5</b>	October 11	Capitalism Natural and Free	B Chapter 2 and pg. 122
<b>Week 6</b>	October 18	Capitalism Unjust and Unstable	B Chapter 3 and pg. 126-128
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>October 25</b>	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	<b>No Readings</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	November 1	Capitalism, Democracy and the Welfare State	B Chapter 5 and 6
<b>Week 9</b>	November 8	Globalization, Capitalism, and Democracy	DS Chapter 15 B Chapter 7
<b>Week 10</b>	November 15	Financialization and the Economic Crisis	A Chapter 1, 2 and 8
<b>Week 11</b>	November 22	The Crisis, the State, and Authoritarian Neo-liberalism	A Chapter 3 and 4
<b>Week 12</b>	November 29	The Turn to Permanent Austerity and its Alternatives	A Chapter 5, 6, and 7
<b>Week 13</b>	December 6	Conclusion and Exam review	No Readings

## APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### **Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

### **Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

### **Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- o the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- o the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** refer to current Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>)

"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

### **Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

### **Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

### **Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> ."

## Submission of Course Requirements

**ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.**

**THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.**

*Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>*

**Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.**

## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "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> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

*Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>*

## **PLAGARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

### **B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History  
August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western  
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.