

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
POLITICS 2192A-sec 650
WEALTH AND POVERTY
SUMMER 2022 (DISTANCE ONLINE)

Dr. R. VandeWetering

Lectures: available by Tuesday at noon (but normally on the previous weekend)

E-mail: Please check your UWO e-mail account for periodic messages. My e-mail address is rvandewe@uwo.ca. When you e-mail me, put in the subject heading "2192-your last name". This will help prevent your message being deleted as spam.

E-mail is the best way to contact me. You may (pandemic willing) visit me at my office SSC 4143 or phone me at (519) 661-2111, ext. 85177. Please email me to arrange a time to meet or talk. Occasionally I will be out of the city and will only be able to be in contact by email.

Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites: *You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an 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.*

Prerequisites: None **Antirequisites:** None

Course Description

What do humans mean when we use the terms 'wealth' and 'poverty'? What implications do these definitions have for politics? Thinkers in different eras have articulated varying responses to the problems and opportunities related to these terms. This course introduces students to these responses. We examine ancient and modern approaches to wealth and poverty, with particular attention being paid to the role of political institutions. The course will be divided into three periods: ancient Greece and Rome (philosophers, playwrights, poets); Christianity (the Bible, early and medieval writers), and Modern (Political Economists, Liberals and Socialists).

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should a) be able to describe different definitions of poverty and wealth;

b) be able to discuss why poverty exists;

c) be able to discuss if it is good or bad to be poor;

d) be able to discuss how these definitions are linked to political institutions, and

e) improve their writing skills.

Required Textbook

None, but I recommend that you purchase the novel of the theorist you choose for your book report (see below).

Evaluation

Assignment	20%	due May 21 by 11:55 PM at OWL
Book Report	30%	due June 4 by 11:55 PM at OWL
Final Exam	50%	available at OWL June 19 by 9 AM; due at OWL June 20 at 9 AM

Self-reporting: for the Assignment, if you self-report, your Assignment submission will then be due 48 hours after the exact time it was due (ie May 23 at 11:55 PM). If you need more time than this, then you will have to obtain a note from an academic counsellor. You may not self-report for the Book Report or the Final Exam.

Assignment: 20% due May 21 by 11:55 PM at OWL under assignments.

Minimum 450 words, maximum 600. Typed, double-spaced. A title page is not necessary.

Please remember to include your name and student number on the first page. A bibliography is not necessary. Footnotes are not necessary, but be conscious about the danger of plagiarism.

Don't forget to proofread. **Late assignments:** Extensions will only be granted in exceptional—and properly documented—medical circumstances, and by prior arrangement with instructor.

Computer problems do not qualify as an excuse: prepare your essay assuming that you will have problems with your hard drive. Late assignments will be penalized **10% per day**, including weekends. **Please note that one minute late = late.** Social science students should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> if you have a problem.

Assignment: There is an idea that the 'poor' have 'utility' (or are 'useful' or have a 'function') in a society. The philosopher Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) defines 'utility' in terms of whether an action or a law or a person increases the overall happiness of the society. An action is proper if it promotes the greatest happiness of the greatest number. Read a) the Wikipedia entry for 'Purgatory', and b) 2192Rosenthal. Then answer the following questions:

1. In what ways could the poor be seen as having 'utility' for society in the middle ages? (Please note that you will have to infer an answer from the points in the readings—that is, there may not be one sentence in the readings that directly answers the question)
2. Thinking of 21st-century Canada: in what ways can the poor be seen as having 'utility' for the political functioning of our society?
3. Thinking of 21st-century Canada: in what ways can the poor be as seen having 'utility' for the economic functioning of our society?
4. Thinking of 21st-century Canada: in what ways can the poor be seen as having 'utility' for the social functioning of our society?

Be systematic: you must start by defining the 'poor' (do not use a dictionary; choose one the definitions from the course, and use it consistently). Divide your answer into four sections. They should each be roughly equal.

Please note: for questions 2 to 4, I do not want you to use any secondary sources unless you know nothing about 21st-century Canada. Use your imagination.

Please note: the point of this exercise is to practice thinking in terms of usefulness. You do not have to personally agree with the points you make in questions 2 to 4. Indeed, it is quite legitimate to think that the poor (or the rich) are not useful at all, or to disagree with the entire premise that we should discuss the poor (or the rich) in terms of usefulness. Many (probably most) people think in terms of utility, and it is important to understand their perceptions of the poor (and by extension the rich). It is always a 'useful' exercise to put one's self in the shoes of

another, especially if you disagree with them. Think broadly: imagine both where the 'poor' are regarded negatively and where they are considered positively (that is, viewed negatively or positively, they still could have a function in society).

Book Report: 30% due June 4 by 11:55 PM at OWL under Assignments.

Minimum 700 words (not including bibliography or footnotes), maximum 1000; typed; double-spaced; keep your notes and rough drafts; if you make a reference to or quote from a source on the internet, you must give me an exact reference so that I can find it. Submit an electronic copy at OWL by 11:55 PM on the due date. **Late Book Reports:** Extensions will only be granted in exceptional—and properly documented—medical circumstances, and by prior arrangement with instructor. Computer problems do not qualify as an excuse: prepare your report assuming that you will have problems with your hard drive. Late reports will be penalized **10% per day**, including weekends. **Please note that one minute late = late.** Social science students should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> if you have a problem.

Book Report:

“The poor are responsible for their condition.” How would one of these authors (based only on the one book listed) respond to this statement?

Choose and read one of the following books. You must use a paper copy of the book which has page numbers.

Anonymous. Beowulf.

Virgil. The Aeneid.

Daniel Defoe. Robinson Crusoe.

William Morris. News from Nowhere.

Edward Bellamy. Looking Backward.

Be systematic: have an introduction that briefly summarizes your answer (eg. “Morris would agree that.... He would say this because 1, 2, 3, and 4....”) Please, no ‘road maps’ for the Introduction; the report is too short to waste time on filler.

Be systematic: Remember to define “poverty” in the second paragraph.

Think broadly. It is possible (even likely) that the author will provide evidence for and against the statement. Do not ignore information that goes against your initial yes or no answer. Instead consider if the statement holds true in some situations but not others. It is possible (even likely) that you will end up with a “yes, but” or “no, but” answer. Don’t worry. I like buts.

Think broadly: introduce terms used in the course if they help.

Be academic: cite page numbers as evidence for your statements. If you claim that Defoe thinks that the poor look good in orange, you need to provide proof. Since you are using one book, I suggest you avoid footnotes or endnotes and simply end the sentence making the claim with round brackets with the page number—like this (p.212).

You are expected to read the entire book. I discourage you from using secondary sources. It is not necessary and may lead you to make mistakes. For example, your report is based only on one book by the author. A writer of a secondary source may make a judgement based on multiple books by the author, and thus not be true of the one book you are reading. Or, the writer of the secondary source will have his own ideological viewpoint. Or he may use a different definition of poverty than you. Trust yourself—stick to your own reading and apply

definitions learned in the course. If you use secondary sources—including book summary websites—you must include footnotes/endnotes and each one must include page numbers. If you make a reference to or quote from a source on the internet, you must give me an exact reference so that I can find it. There is a constant danger of plagiarism when you use book summary websites. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and could result in a zero for the entire course (see the appendix).

*****Please immediately take steps to borrow or purchase the paper copy of the book you intend to use. And start reading!**

Final: “take-home exam”: on June 19 by 9 AM the exam will be made available at OWL in the resources folder. You will do two questions. Each individual question requires an answer from 750 (minimum) to 1500 words (maximum). You will submit your two answers in one file at OWL under assignments. The exam is due at OWL June 20 at 9 AM. The essay answers must be in essay format (introduction, thesis, conclusion).

Readings: available at OWL.

Lectures: will be available at OWL on Tuesdays by noon (but normally by the previous Sunday). The lectures are the intellectual property of Richard VandeWetering. You may not be copy them or re-broadcast them in any medium.

Lecture Schedule

WEEK ONE: MAY 9

1. INTRODUCTION

2. CONCEPTS USEFUL FOR THINKING ABOUT WEALTH AND POVERTY: HUMAN NATURE, THE GOOD LIFE, INSTITUTIONS, THE AGATHOS, JUST WORLD THEORY, OCCUPATIONS

3. HOMERIC GREEKS

4. ALTERNATIVES

Readings: 2192IliadandOdyssey; 2191Hesiod; 2192PhoeniciaandCarthage

WEEK TWO: MAY 16

1. CLASSICAL GREEKS: COMMUNALISM

2. CLASSICAL GREEKS: ARISTOTLE ON FRIENDSHIP

3. CLASSICAL GREEKS: ARISTOTLE ON POLITICS

4. CLASSICAL GREEKS: PLATO’S SECOND-BEST POLITY

Readings: 2192Pythagoras; 2192Plato; 2192Aristotle

SATURDAY MAY 21: Assignment: 20% due by 11:55 PM at OWL.

WEEK THREE: MAY 23

- 1. CLASSICAL GREEKS: THE CYNICS**
- 2. HELLENIC GREEKS: STOICISM**
- 3. HELLENIC GREEKS: EPICUREANISM**
- 4. HEBREW BIBLE**
- 5. ROMAN LUXURY**

Readings: 2192Cynics; 2192The Stoics; 2192Epicureanism; 2192HebrewBible.

WEEK FOUR: MAY 30

- 1. CHRISTIANITY: NEW TESTAMENT**
- 2. CHRISTIANITY: APOCRYPHA**
- 3. CHRISTIANITY: EARLY CHRISTIANITY**
- 4. CHRISTIANITY: MIDDLE AGES**
- 5. CHRISTIANITY: CHRISTIAN HUMANISM**

Readings: 2192NT; 2192Apocrypha; 2192Clement; 2192ChristianMonasticism; 2192Francis; 2192Walsh; 2192Vives

SATURDAY JUNE 4: Book Report: 30% due by 11:55 PM at OWL

WEEK FIVE: JUNE 6

- 1. THE MODERN STATE AND COMMERCIAL SOCIETY**
- 2. (OLD) LIBERALISM**
- 3. THE ENGLISH POOR LAW**
- 4. POLITICAL ECONOMY: SMITH**
- 5. POLITICAL ECONOMY: UTILITARIANISM, POPULATION, DEMOCRACY**

Readings: 2192Locke; 2192Defoe; 2192Smith; 2192Bentham; 2192Malthus

WEEK SIX: JUNE 13

- 1. SOCIALISM**
- 2. MARX**
- 3. NEW LIBERALISM AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY**
- 4. FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY**
- 5. CONCLUSION**

Readings: 2192Owen; 2192Seeley; 2192Marx; 2192Hobson; 2192Samuels; 2192EhrenreichandPiven

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.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html 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.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

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. https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html

PLAGIARISM*

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.

*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

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 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

- The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at www.registrar.uwo.ca
- Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:

<https://westernusc.ca/your-services/>

- Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://sdc.uwo.ca/>

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

Procedures for Requesting Academic Consideration

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:
Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

- For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are **not** an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- must communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration **is not** normally intended for students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing

disability. These students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability.

Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). These students should access support through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the **online Self-Reported Absence portal**. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities **within 48 hours or less**.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances: Students will be allowed:

- a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April;
- a maximum of one self-reported absence between May and August.

Any absences in excess of the number designated above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.

- The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- Self-reported absences **will not be** allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period;
- Self-reporting **may not be** used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a medical absence not covered by existing Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation, will be required to provide documentation in person to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in the form of a completed, signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence will be required to provide appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.