

WESTERN UNIVERSITY – FALL 2018

POLS 2102A – CAPITALISM AND DEMOCRACY

Class Time: Tuesday, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Instructor: Dianne Lalonde

Email: dlalond3@uwo.ca

Location: UCC 67

Office Hours: By appointment

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[Western OWL – Course Website](#)

Capitalism and democracy are not terms that can be simply defined. We need to ask: What are their core values? How are they enacted in different times and environments?

Being clear on our understandings of these terms enables us to explore the relationship between them. How do capitalism and democracy interact? On what values do they exist in harmony, and on what values are they in crisis? Answering these questions will involve us working through important political works, current events, and our own personal assumptions.

It is also important to think through other possible systems and futures. What would a life without capitalism and/or democracy look like? Is that something we should be moving towards?

What will be covered in Capitalism and Democracy?

1. Definitions of democracy and capitalism



HOW DID DEMOCRACY AND CAPITALISM COME TO BE?
HOW ARE THEY BEING ENACTED AND LIVED IN OUR TIMES?
IN THIS FIRST SECTION, WE WILL DEEPEN OUR
UNDERSTANDINGS OF CAPITALISM AND DEMOCRACY.



2. How capitalism and democracy may be in harmony

INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY
THAT CAPITALISM AND
DEMOCRACY LEAD TO PEACE
AND DEVELOPMENT, WHILE
INCREASING INDIVIDUAL
FREEDOM.



3. How capitalism and democracy may be in crisis

INCLUDING THE WAYS IN WHICH
CAPITALISM AND DEMOCRACY
CAN LEAD TO ALIENATION AND
THE COMMODIFICATION OF
EVERYDAY LIFE.

FOR SALE

4. Possible alternatives to capitalism and democracy

WHAT HAPPENS IF ALL LABOUR IS TAKEN OVER BY ROBOTS?
HOW WILL WE RESPOND TO THE INEVITABLE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS?
IN THIS LAST SECTION, WE WILL CONSIDER FOUR FUTURES
WITHOUT CAPITALISM AND WHAT THEY MEAN FOR DEMOCRACY.



Course Goals

Student Goals

- **Understand** the values and varieties of capitalism and democracy, in addition to their interaction
- **Challenge** the assumptions you hold and those held in the work we will be reviewing
- **Communicate** your challenges, questions, and thoughts clearly to the instructor and your fellow students
- **Apply** what you learn to analyze and respond to current political, social, and economic events

Instructor Goals

- **Engage** student's curiosity and desire to learn
- **Provide** a clear structure for lessons and grading, in addition to personal guidance
- **Inspire** students to critically and thoughtfully consider how these lessons impact their lives and the lives of others

Course Statements

Classroom Conduct Statement

We will engage in respectful and thoughtful dialogue. To do so, our comments will not be harassing or demeaning. We will not interfere with our learning by being disruptive. Examples of disruptive behavior include arriving late to class, talking without being called upon, and inappropriately using our computers and phones.

Name and Pronoun Statement

All people have the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. In this class, you will have the chance to indicate the name that you prefer to be called and, if you choose, to identify pronouns with which you would like to be addressed. I will address and refer to all students accordingly and support classmates in doing so as well.

Content Warning Statement

During the course of this semester, we may discuss historical and current events that may be disturbing or even traumatizing to some students. If you suspect that the material is likely to be emotionally challenging for you, please discuss your concerns with me prior to the class in which the subject comes up. Similarly, if we are discussing something in class and you feel the need to step outside during a class discussion, you may always do so without academic penalty. You will be responsible for getting the material from a classmate or the instructor.

Accommodation Statement

We all learn differently and we all need accommodation to assist our learning. If there is something in this course or beyond the course that is a barrier to your learning, please let me know. I encourage all students to utilize the resources below, and other resources on campus and in the community.

Campus Resources

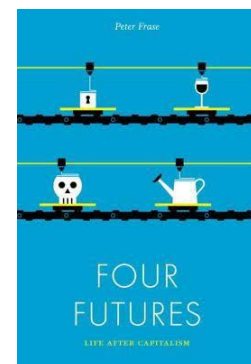
- [Services for Students with DisAbilities](#)
- [Health and Wellness](#)
- [Writing Support Centre](#)
- [Indigenous Services](#)
- [International and Exchange Student Centre](#)

Course Book

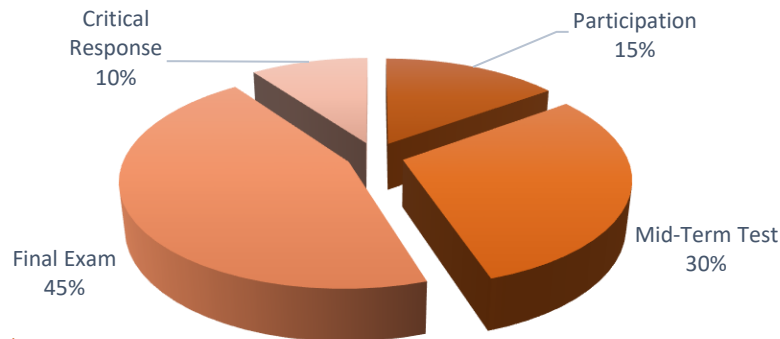
There is one required book for this course available through [The Book Store at Western](#):

Four Futures: Life After Capitalism by Peter Frase (2016)

The book will also be available through reserve at Weldon Library.



Course Work & Grading Procedure



Participation (15%)

Participation will consist of three components: attendance, in-class discussion, and online engagement through OWL Forums. Your participation will be graded in accordance with the quality and quantity of your contribution. A rubric for participation grading, in addition to examples of strong contributions to discussions, will be shared on OWL.

Mid-Term Test (30%)

The mid-term test will occur in class on **October 23rd**. It will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions. We will discuss the mid-term more in class and have a review session on **October 16th**.

Critical Response (10%)

The critical response will be 750 – 1,000 words. A list of questions, a grading rubric, and more details will be provided on OWL after the fall reading break. The response serves as preparation for the final exam and provides an opportunity for the instructor to give feedback on student analysis. The response is due in class on **November 20th**.

Final Exam (45%)

The final exam will occur during the Fall exam period. It will consist of short answer and essay questions. We will discuss the final exam in class and have a review session on **December 4th**.

Late Policy

Late assignments will receive a penalty of 3% a day and an assignment more than a week late will not be accepted. If you require accommodation, connect with [Academic Counselling](#).

Make-Up

If you require a make-up for the mid-term test or final exam, connect with [Academic Counselling](#). If you require make-up for participation, email the instructor at dlalond3@uwo.ca

Course Outline

UNDERSTANDING DEMOCRACY AND CAPITALISM

SEPTEMBER 11TH. Defining Capitalism

- [Crash Course: Int'l Commerce, Snorkeling Camels, and The Indian Ocean Trade \(10 minutes\)](#)
- [Crash Course: Capitalism and the Dutch East India Company \(15 minutes\)](#)

SEPTEMBER 18TH. Varieties of Capitalism

- *Modern Capitalist World Economy: A Historical Overview* – Jeffrey Frieden (OWL)
- *Good Capitalism, Bad Capitalism, and the Economics of Growth and Prosperity* – William Baumol, Robert Litan, and Carl Schramm (OWL)

SEPTEMBER 25TH. Defining Democracy

- *On Democracy* – Robert Dahl (OWL)
- *Indigenous Democracy: The Great Law of Peace of the Haudenosaunee* – Lynn Gottlieb (OWL)

OCTOBER 2ND. Varieties of Democracy

- *Three Normative Models of Democracy* – Jürgen Habermas (OWL)
- [On electoral reform, what are Canada's options?](#) – Amanda Shendruk

OCTOBER 9TH. FALL READING BREAK

CAPITALISM AND DEMOCRACY IN HARMONY

OCTOBER 16TH. Peace & Development

MID-TERM TEST REVIEW

- *The End of History?* – Francis Fukuyama (OWL)
- *Is Capitalism Good for Women?* – Ann Cudd (OWL)

OCTOBER 23RD. MID-TERM TEST

OCTOBER 30TH. Freedom

- *Ethical Assumptions in Economic Theory* – Elizabeth Anderson (OWL)
- *The Virtue of Selfishness* – Ayn Rand (OWL)

CAPITALISM AND DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS

NOVEMBER 6TH. Alienation

- *An Introduction to Marx's Theory of Alienation* – Judy Cox (OWL)
- *The "Democracy-Politics Paradox": The Dynamics of Political Alienation* – Gerry Stoker and Mark Evans (OWL)
- In-class screening: *Black Mirror* (62 minutes)

NOVEMBER 13TH. Commodification

- *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets* – Michael Sandel (OWL)
- *Eating the Other: Desire and Resistance* – bell hooks (OWL)

LIFE AFTER CAPITALISM

NOVEMBER 20TH. Communism & Rentism

RESPONSE PAPER DUE

- *Four Futures: Life After Capitalism* - Peter Frase (Introduction and Chapters 1-2)

NOVEMBER 27TH. Socialism & Exterminism

- *Four Futures: Life After Capitalism* - Peter Frase (Chapters 3-4 and Conclusion)

DECEMBER 4TH. FINAL EXAM REVIEW

**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:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- 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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.

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

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.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. http://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 <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

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

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.