

**Introduction to Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
PPE 2200F**

September-December 2020

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

Office Hours:

Our office hours will be held remotely by Zoom this year. Please contact whomever you'd like to meet by e-mail to schedule a particular time to meet.

Klimchuk: Thursdays 10-12 (ET), or by appointment, klimchuk@uwo.ca

Jones: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 (ET), or by appointment, cwjones@uwo.ca

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

Class Meetings: Monday 11:30-1:30 (ET) & Wednesday 12:30-1:30 (ET), via Zoom

Description of the course: This course is designed to get you to thinking and writing carefully about a number of social issues, while also introducing you to the ways in which the three disciplines approach them. For each issue you will be expected to read the assigned readings on that issue written by practitioners of one or more of those disciplines, to come to class prepared to discuss those readings, and then to write essays in which you put the ideas discussed to use.

Text: There is no textbook. All readings will be available on the course OWL site.

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 5, November 11, December 9.**

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 take-home 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.

A note on 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

Philosophy (Klimchuk; Sept 9-Oct 5)

Weeks 1 and 2: Political Authority

Wed Sept 9 Plato, *Crito*

Mon Sept 14 Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Bk I, chs 1-6
Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*, Bk. II, ch 2, paras 4, 6, 7; ch 7, paras 95-101, 119-22

Wed Sept 16 Hume, "Of the Original Contract"

Mon Sept 21 Simmons, "The Principle of Fair Play"

Weeks 3 and 4: Property

Wed Sept 23 Locke, *Two Treatise of Government*, ch 5.

Mon Sept 28 Schmitz, "The Institution of Property"
Hume, handout on convention
Grotius, *Commentary on the Law of Prize and Booty*, pp. 315-21

Wed Sept 30 Grotius, *On the Rights of War and Peace*, Bk II, ch 2.

Mon Oct 5 **Common topic: Poverty**
Thomas Paine, "Agrarian Justice"
Locke, *Two Treatise of Government*, Bk. I, ch. 4, para 42.
Essert, "Propeerty and Homelessness"

Politics (Jones: Oct 7-Nov 11)

Week 5: Markets

Wed Oct 7

Adam Smith, 'Of the Division of Labour', from *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, 1776, Book I, Chapter I-III, excerpt.

Adam Smith, 'Of the Expences of the Sovereign or Commonwealth', from *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, 1776, Book V, Chapter I, Parts I, II, and III (Articles 1 and 2), and Conclusion, excerpt.

Friedrich Hayek, 'The Use of Knowledge in Society', *American Economic Review* 35 (4), 1945, 519-530.

Mon Oct 12: Thanksgiving: No class today

Wed Oct 14

Karl Marx, *Capital*, Volume 1, 1867, excerpt on appearance and reality.

Wolff, Jonathan, *Ethics and Public Policy*, second edition, 2020, Chapter 9: 'The free market', 176-193.

Week 6: Justice

Mon Oct 19

David Hume, 'Justice as Convention', excerpt from *Treatise of Human Nature*, 1739.

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

Wed Oct 21

G. A. Cohen, *If You're an Egalitarian, How Come You're So Rich?*, Chapters 8-10 (on Rawls).

Week 7: Justice

Mon Oct 26

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, 1974, chapter 7.

G. A. Cohen, 'Robert Nozick and Wilt Chamberlain: How Patterns Preserve Liberty', 1977.

Wed Oct 28 **Common Topic: Poverty**

Jonathan Wolff et al., 'A Philosophical Review of Poverty', Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2015, <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/philosophical-review-poverty> (Download the full report)

Reading Week: Nov 2-8

Week 8: Equality

Mon Nov 9

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), Introduction and Chapter 2: The prevailing opinion of a sexual character discussed, <https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/wollstonecraft-a-vindication-of-the-rights-of-woman>

Harry Frankfurt, 'Equality as a Moral Ideal', *Ethics* 98 (1), 1987, 21-43.

Elizabeth Anderson, 'What is the Point of Equality?', *Ethics* 109, 1999, 287-337.

Wed Nov 11

Jonathan Wolff, 'Equality', in George Klosko (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, 611-623.

Economics (Slivinski; Nov 16-Dec 9)

Weeks 9-10 Rational Choice: Crime, Voting and Altruism

Engelen, B, 2006, "Solving the paradox: The expressive rationality of the decision to vote", *Rationality and Society*, Vol. 18(4): 419-441.

Friedman, David, "[Rational Criminals and Profit-Maximizing Police: Gary Becker's Contribution to the Economic Analysis of Law and Law Enforcement](#)" in *The New Economics of Human Behavior*, Mariano Tommasi and Kathryn Ierulli, editors, Cambridge University Press, 1995, pp. 43-58.

Program profile of the Minneapolis HotSpots experiment, National Institute of Justice

Vesterlund, L, 2006, "Why do people give?" in *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook*, Yale University Press

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

Week 11: Common Topic: Poverty

Atkinson, A, 2015, “Inequality – what can be done?” *LSE International Inequalities Institute Working paper 2*

Thomas Straubhaar, 2017, “On the Economics of a Universal Basic Income”, *Intereconomics*

Heiner Flassbeck, 2017, “Universal Basic Income Financing and Income Distribution – The Questions Left Unanswered by Proponents” *Intereconomics*

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/>

Arunachalam, R M Shah, 2008, “Prostitution and Brides?” *American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings* 2008, 98:2, 516–522

Drugs:

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

Block, W, 1993, “Drug Prohibition: A Legal and Economic Analysis” *Journal of Business Ethics* 12: 089--700,

Rock’n’roll:

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

Happel, S. K.; Jennings, M. M. (1995). “The folly of anti-scalping laws”. *Cato Journal*, 15(1), 65-80