

Political Science 2102B 650 (The University of Western Ontario)
Capitalism and Democracy
Course Outline

Type: 2nd term Course Jan./26 to April/26

Place: Online/Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Robert F. Jonasson

Office Hour: Tuesdays 1pm-2pm SSC 7249

E-mail address: rjonasso@uwo.ca (please e-mail anytime)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political Science 2102A is a non essay course which examines the theoretical underpinnings, political dimensions and real-world applications of capitalism and democracy. The course combines a focus on the political dimension of democracy associated with economic capitalism, the background, meaning and interpretation of democracy, with a focus on the claims that democracy may or may not be compatible with capitalism.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students should have definitional knowledge and understanding of certain aspects of political theory and comparative politics as this applies to the topic of capitalism and democracy. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify the key components of the politics of capitalism and democracy and examine several historical and current states' experiences with these two items. Students will have an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the two major concepts in the course and be encouraged to draw their own conclusions about capitalism and its relationship to democracy..

Delivery: The course is asynchronous, which means no formal class times (i.e. no in person or Zoom classes). Materials will be posted to OWL Brightspace that you will need. There are still strict due dates on certain items, but the point is to learn the material at the rate that suits you. The weekly breakdown of topics, lectures and readings below is only suggested – you may wish to go faster or slower through the materials. Please note that asynchronous learning may not be ideal for everyone. Please respect the fact that 650 Distance level online courses are meant to offer maximum flexibility for learning.

GRADE BREAKDOWN: (more info on these items is in the outline)

1) ASSIGNMENT *worth 20%*; due Monday, Feb. 23 by 11.59pm- in OWL Brightspace– Assignments – personal view

2) FINAL EXAM (April exam period, TBA online, open-book essay – on whole course; 2 hours); *worth 80%*

NOTE: All page requirements in the outline use the Times New Roman 12 standard.

NOTE: Some students may be under the impression that 2100 level courses, including this one, may be easy courses in which to achieve very high grades i.e. above 90%. In the last several years, this has not been the case with 2102 as less than 1% have gotten 90% or more. While I am not suggesting this has to be the same this year (perhaps more will be high achievers), I am trying to suggest that you have realistic grade expectations for a challenging political science course.

REQUIRED READINGS: These will be posted as PDF files in OWL- Brightspace – Content. No other readings are needed.

TOPICS: (these are a suggested weekly breakdown, but it is up to you as to how you want to proceed): Readings are all from the PDFs on OWL. Weeks begin with the date below.

Week 1 (Jan.5): course outline: see OWL; Introduction to capitalism and democracy

Reading: Reading 1 (Friedman) pgs.1-12; Lecture Video: No.1; Course notes: Part 1

Weeks 2-5 (Jan.12): capitalism and liberalism/liberal-democracy

Reading: Reading 2 (Rawls) Chapter 1; Lecture Videos: No. 2, 3 (Note same as 11, just do part on democracy);, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Course notes: Part 2

NOTE: This is the biggest section (4 weeks). Perhaps try to do at least some of the material each week. You could follow some of the themes of the lecture videos, for example (and their corresponding sections in the course notes) – but it is up to you, of course, how you learn the material. The Rawls reading fits best in the reform liberalism topic.

Weeks 6-8 (Feb.9): Marxist critique of capitalism/liberal-democracy; week 7 is reading week

Assignment due Monday, February 23 by 11.59pm

Readings: Reading 3 (Marx) Part 1 (just to get a feel of the writing style of Marx); Reading 4 (Soviet command economy) all of it; Lecture Videos: No.8, and 9; Course notes: Part 3

Weeks 9-11 (March 2): capitalism and dictatorship

Readings: Reading 5 (socialism and fascism) all of it; Reading 6 (China) all of it; Lecture Videos: 11 (note- same as 3, fast forward to part on dictatorship) and 12; Course notes: Part 4

Weeks 12-13 (March 23): global capitalism and democracy

Readings: Reading 7 (globalization and democracy) all of it; Lecture Video: No.13; Course notes: Part 5

Week 14 (April 6): **study for final exam – TBA in April. exam period (see info later in this outline)**

2102B ASSIGNMENT

Length: 3-5 pages double-spaced minimum

Due date: Monday, February 23 11.59pm– to be put into OWL – Assignments – personal view (do not wait to the last minute – lates will be strictly enforced; if you submit the wrong file, you must e-mail me the correct one before the deadline)

Lost Assignments: It is your responsibility to have other copies of your paper (e-file).

Bibliography: not needed

Citations: not needed

You are simply to outline your personal view of capitalism and how it fits with democracy. This should contain the following:

- 1/ Your view of what you think capitalism and democracy entails (you may examine democracy as liberal-democracy but you may see it as something else).
- 2/ Your view on whether capitalism has been (and is) a negative or positive force (or both) for all or some societies.
- 3/ Your view about what can be done to make capitalism and democracy fit together better (you may argue that they cannot fit together or should not do so).
- 4/ This is not a formal essay, so you do not need a formal thesis statement, introduction and conclusion.
- 5/ However, write in complete sentences and paragraphs. Double-space within the essay and between paragraphs. A title page is not required.
- 6/ This assignment is your normative opinion, so I would expect you to write in the first person.
- 7/ This is a pass/fail assignment and will not be formally graded. It is either 20/20 or 0/20.
- 8/ If it is late, you have until Tuesday, April 7 by 11.59pm to hand it in but you will get no more than 12/20 (if done properly).

Please note that this assessment is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with an extension to hand in the essay without any late penalty which is based on an extension period recommended by the Academic advisors.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2102B 650
FINAL EXAM INFO**

Instructor: Dr. Jonasson

FINAL EXAM:

Format: Take-home, open-book, online (all must do it)

Time: (2 hours) – QUESTIONS WILL BE POSTED IN OWL-RESOURCES just before the chosen exam time (TBA) (the file will be called final exam questions)

DUE DATE:TBA– the typed (it must be typed) answer in Word or PDF format only must be submitted to OWL-ASSIGNMENTS – final exam

Study on-line notes, readings and the various lecture files only. The notes are most important.

2 Essay questions (5 essay questions will be given as choices)

The material covered will be all material on the entire course.

Value: worth 80% of course grade (40% for each answer of total course grade)

Sample question: (this will not be on the final exam)

1/ Outline the features of reform liberalism. How did reform liberals try to reconcile capitalism with freedom and democracy? In your view, did reform liberalism save capitalism? Why or why not?

Answer all parts of the question. Write as much as possible without going off topic or repeating yourself. Write in proper paragraph and sentence form. No citations or bibliography are needed (do not include these). A proper structure (i.e. introduction, conclusion) is required but no formal thesis statement is needed. The fact based first part of the question is worth quite a bit more than the opinion part (although it should be fact based too) – although I cannot give you an exact breakdown

All questions will incorporate several course topics, but will not be too broad.

Length:

I would suggest a target of 6-10 pages double-spaced total (3 to 5 each answer) but answering the questions properly is more important than strict page lengths.

However, please give me no more than 12 pages double-spaced. Please double-space and do not create a title page. Make sure your last name is on your e-file and your full name is on the top of the answer. **Again, the answer must be typed.**

Grading:

Expectations will have to be somewhat higher on the grading, given the open book format of the final exam, but these will not be unrealistic since it is only 2 hours. Style will also be graded more carefully since you can more easily correct grammar and spelling.

Questions of the instructor during the exam period:

I will endeavour to answer *emergency* e-mail questions during the 2 hour period, but if the questions are answered by this document, I will refer you back to it.

The questions cannot be about whether the responses should involve certain information or whether the information is correct etc. Use common sense here. I will not be looking over any draft work or final submissions before the due date.

Late: Try to hand it in on time. Technically, a late exam may be given a full late penalty of zero.

I WOULD NOT PROCRASTINATE – in general, computer problems will not be accepted for late answers, so get things by the 2 hour deadline

If you have submitted the wrong file to OWL, you can e-mail the updated one *before the due date* only – if after, the late situation applies (it is zero if it is late). Therefore, carefully upload the correct version.

Missed final exam: if you have valid reasons for missing the final exam in the 2 hour period (sick with a virus comes to mind but there may be other issues), **you must contact Academic Advising and get their approval to set up a make-up exam for the final exam.**

COURSE PROCEDURES

1/ **E-Mail:** You may e-mail me at rjonasso@uwo.ca anytime. I will check e-mail Monday to Saturday (not including any holidays) – from 10am to 6pm. I will endeavour to answer your e-mails within several hours during the above period (from 6pm to 10am, you may e-mail, but I will take longer to respond). There may be some exceptions to the above, but I will try to stick to this schedule. Please always be courteous.

2/ **Questions:** Ask questions intelligently. Do not ask questions for the sake of asking them (i.e. to show 'interest', to 'stick out' etc.). Please ask specific questions about the topics; questions like 'can you explain this topic to me?' are too broad. I cannot tutor each student obviously. Questions about course material can usually be answered in this course outline or on other documents. Of course, ask away! I'm especially glad to answer thoughtful questions.

3/ **Lecture Notes:** These are on OWL in Content. They are crucial to what I want you to know (especially for the final exam). I have placed all the notes together by topics (in order). How you go about learning them is up to you, but the outline is suggesting a certain weekly breakdown.

4/ **Lecture files:** These are in OWL –Content. These audio/video files are summaries of the lecture topics. They should be helpful in understanding the notes.

5/ **Grading:** All grade values in the course outline are 'set in stone'. There will be no re-weighting or bell-curve. No extra assignments will be given. No items will be omitted from the final grade.

The University of Western Ontario Senate has adopted a set of grade descriptors which explain the meaning of grades assigned in all university courses:

- A+ 90-100% One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
- A 80-89% Superior work which is clearly above average
- B 70-79% Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
- C 60-69% Competent work, meeting requirements
- D 50-59% Fair work, minimally acceptable
- F below 50% Fail

6/ **Appeals:** You may ask me to revisit your grades, but be aware that I mark carefully! YOU MUST PUT ALL CONCERNS IN WRITING. I will only change a grade if you prove to me that I am in error about certain pieces of factual information in your final exam. Please remember that I do not give grades according to your personality - try not to be personally offended by what you consider a poor grade (indeed, it is difficult to get to know students in an on-line course in any case). An appeal must go to me first. Your grade may go up, stay the same or go down (I would then give you an average of the old grade and the new grade). You may go down if I discover critical things I missed the first time.

NOTE: Do not assume your past (eg. past grades, experience level, age) is the key to your future performance. Profs assume everyone wishes high grades. Please do not indicate to the prof that you need or expect a certain grade in the course.

7/ **Due dates:** All due dates (eg. essays, assignments, tests, exams) in the course outline are 'set in stone', unless they are moved to a later date by the instructor. Under no condition will due dates be made *earlier* than the dates indicated in the course outline.

8/ **Extensions:** As indicated in the policy of the dept., there are some legitimate excuses which may allow students to get limited extensions for essays, tests and exams. **ALL EXCUSES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTE** (eg. doctor's note) which is shown/sent to **Academic Advising**. Dates must be present to indicate the time period the student was affected. The Instructor must be notified by **Academic Advising** within 2 weeks of the missed essay or test. **I must have the clear approval of Academic Advising for any extension.** The permission must be produced immediately in the case of the final exam. If an extension is warranted, the prof and the student will negotiate a time frame for submission. This time frame cannot be just what the student wants.

9/ **Problems with OWL/Internet:** If OWL is officially down for all students generally for a period of more than 12 hours on the day something is due, I will permit an extension to all students – generally, the next day. However, short problems cannot justify this, even to the deadline itself. My advice is do not wait to submit work to the last minute on due days!
Personal computer/internet/OWL issues are not valid grounds for an excuse.

10/ If you are a student with a serious concern, whether valid or not, and you are unable to keep up with the course for a long period of time, the prof strongly advises that you drop the course. Students who get too far behind generally do not finish in any case or receive an uncharacteristically low grade. Sometimes unfortunate events occur in our lives; try to persevere, but if you cannot, it is no shame to reduce your course load in certain situations.

11/ Please do not ask the instructor for final grades (or final exam grades). These must be released by the Registrar's Office first.

12/ NOTE: the following updated policy takes effect for all reference requests past August 1, 2021 for past or current students

I will give students basic references (for jobs, student exchange programs etc.) if their grade is above 75% in a class in which I have taught them (final grade). **For all post-graduate references (law school, grad school, teachers' college etc.) and scholarships, students must have completed at least 3 courses (half or full) with me beyond 1020E and have a grade of 85% or better (as an average in the courses). If students took 1020E with me, they may or may not factor the grade in this class into their average, but they will need 2 more classes (half or full).** However, good character is an important consideration for promotion as well. I do not promote opportunists (eg. those who ask for higher grades without merit) or those with 'entitlement' attitudes. Make sure you give me at least 3 weeks notice for any deadlines and always give me all forms and postage. **I will do a maximum of 4 paper/online references for a student in a term.**