PSCI 300: Foundations of Political Economy
Winter, 2014
AL 105, TU 11:30-2:20

Instructor: Antulio Rosales
Email Address: a2rosale@uwaterloo.ca
Office Location: Hagey Hall 351
Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-12:00

Course Description: Political economy dates back to the works of influential thinkers from the XVII and the XIX centuries that were concerned with the workings of the capitalist system. Often, they were broadly considered philosophers or political economists. Today, political economy is recognized as a multidisciplinary endeavour that deals with issues of wealth and power; hence it is at the intersections of politics, economics and other disciplines such as international relations, sociology, geography, and ecology among others. This course surveys some of the classical texts that have informed the emergence of political economy thought as well as other disciplines in the social sciences. It also incorporates contemporary discussions that have spurred ground-breaking debates in the field, such as feminist political economy and political ecology.

Pre-Requisites: PSCI 231; ECON 101, 102; PSCI 255 or PSCI 283; Level at least 3A.

Contact policy:
I am available during my office hours or by appointment via email. I will do my best to respond to emails within 48 hours of receiving them.
University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, Student Discipline http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, Student Petitions http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult Student Grievances http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, Student Appeals http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): Academic Integrity http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): Academic Integrity Office http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you are using Turnitin in your course:

Turnitin.com: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See Turnitin http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo for more information.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Evaluation:

Editorials (25%):
Students will write four editorials throughout the term. These are short papers, no longer than one page in length. In these editorials, students should respond to the readings of that week. These are not summaries of the main arguments but students’ reactions to them. Suggestion: for inspiration, read op-ed pages of your preferred magazine or newspaper. Students can choose to write for any week but they are required to write two before reading week and two after. I will receive editorials before each class starts. Students will receive a grade evaluating their performance for the four editorials taken together. Three characteristics will be assessed: pertinence of the argument to the readings, originality, and clarity.

Mid-term exam (30%):
Students will be given three essay questions and will be asked to answer two of those in class. Plenty of examples to the kind of essay questions used will be given in the latter part of each class.

Final exam (45%):
Students will be given five essay questions and will be asked to answer three of those. Plenty of examples to the kind of essay questions used will be given in the latter part of each class.

**Late Policy:**

You will not be able to make up for missed work or exams except in case of circumstances beyond your control (e.g., illness and other types of emergencies, for which you need to bring relevant documentation).

Extensions will not be granted other than in exceptional circumstances for which you will require appropriate documentation from the OPD or Counselling Services, or with the Verification of Illness Form.

**Schedule:**

**January 7: Class Introduction. What is political economy?**

No required readings

Recommended:


**January 14: The nation-state, the economy and economic nationalism**

Required readings:


Supplementary readings:

**January 21: Classical liberalism: invisible hand, division of labour and benefits from trade**

Required readings:


**January 28: Marxism, class struggle and primitive accumulation**

Required readings:

Marx, K. and Engels, F. *Manifesto of the communist party*.

Marx, K. *Capital*. Ch XXVI: “The so-called Primitive Accumulation”

Supplementary readings:


Note: come prepared to perform a ‘debate’ between the schools of thought discussed in class so far.

**February 4: Keynesianism and the political economy of stability**

Required readings:


**February 11: Midterm-examination**

**February 18: no class. Reading week**

**February 25: The developmentalist state and southern approaches to political economy**

Required readings:


Or


**March 4: The neoliberal revolution: individual agency and appraisal of freedom**

Required readings:

Hayek, F. *The road to serfdom*. Chs: Introduction, One and Two.

Supplementary readings:


**March 11: Neo-marxism: hegemony and politics of space**

Required readings:


Supplementary readings:


**March 18: Environmental economics and political ecology**

Required readings:


Supplementary readings:


**March 25: Feminist political economy**

Required readings:


Supplementary readings:


**April 1: Review class and discussion**

**Final examination**

**Date to be confirmed**