Renison University College Land Acknowledgement
With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

Term: Fall, 2019
Course Code: Soc 224R/SWREN224R
Course Title: Poverty & Its Social Consequences
Class Times: Monday & Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
Class Location: REN Room 0403
Instructor: Dr. Tracy Peressini; preferred form of address is Dr. Peressini.
TA: Finesa (fdragusha@edu.uwaterloo.ca), Sarah (Sarah.Bryson@edu.uwaterloo.ca) & Kurtis (kc3wilso@uwaterloo.ca)
Office: Rm. 1622, Founders Building
Office Phone: 519-888-4567, ext. 28602
Office Hours: Monday, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.
Email: Dr. Peressini – tperessini@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description
Whether it is seeing images of the poor and homeless in the media, reading about the poor and destitute in classical and contemporary literature, or listening to news reports about rising numbers of poor persons, welfare cases or street people in Canada, all of us have been exposed to poverty in one way or another in our lives. Canadian culture and norms and the processes through which we are socialized into them, consist of very vivid and distinct systems of understandings, concepts, ideas, images and stereotypes about poverty in Canada. This course is designed to provide students with a basic knowledge and understanding of the conceptual, theoretical, methodological and statistical measurement associated with poverty and its consequences in Canada. We also briefly look at the current “poverty policy” situation in Canada.

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to ...
1. Explain how & why poverty is a political problem;
2. Outline and explain definitions of poverty and their measurement;
3. Describe inequality and its relationship to poverty;
4. Review the theoretical foundations of poverty;
5. Draw a portrait of the kinds of people who are affected by poverty;
6. Summarize the consequences of poverty;
7. Identify social justice responses to poverty and their impact.
Required Text

Optional (Highly Recommended) Resource

Optional Books for Make-up Assignment

Course Requirements and Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assignment Due Date</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group Organization Session</td>
<td>Sept 18th</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reflection (Graded as Pass/Fail)</td>
<td>Sept 30th</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>Oct 21st</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>Nov 13th</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
<td>Nov 18th – Dec 2nd</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>GP – Mandatory Attendance (2%/day)</td>
<td>Nov 18th – Dec 2nd</td>
<td>2%×5 = 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Approved Make-up Assignment</td>
<td>December 3rd (no extensions)</td>
<td>See note below</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total 100%*

* Please note: You may choose one of the optional books as a make-up assignment to add to your final grade. This assignment will be graded out of 5 percentage points to be added to your final grade. For example, if you get 3/5 on your make-up assignment, 3% will be added to your final grade. The make-up assignment will be due December 3rd (no extensions permitted). You may only choose to complete a make-up assignment upon approval of the instructor.

Online Information
The class website on LEARN will be used for a variety of purposes including access to class resources (e.g., syllabus, lecture slides), drop boxes for submitting assignments, course grades, and class announcements. It will be your responsibility to check this website regularly: LEARN. All course work must be uploaded to the appropriate drop box on LEARN.

Lecture slides will be posted after class, on the day it is presented. I strongly recommend that you take your own notes as much as possible, as research shows that people have greater memory for the material when
they take their own notes. To succeed, you should attend all lectures. I will present a great deal of material not covered in your textbook and expand on important points in the text in the lectures. Therefore, it is in your interest to attend class.

### Reflection Assignment
**Due Date:** Sept 30th  
**Weight:** 15% (Graded as Pass/Fail)

This assignment requires you to first read and write a brief summary of *$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*. Second, you will then live on $2.67 (Canadian) for a day. Be honest. Look at what you spend on an average day and reflect on how you would manage on $2.67/day (or $18.69/wk). How would you pay for tuition? What would you eat? How would you get to university? How would you be able to afford a cell phone, internet account, computer ... etc.? What kind of life would you have? Make this relative to your status, e.g. single, married, separated, employed, etc. Finally, given your experience, how would you realistically solve the problem of poverty in Canada? Your review & reflection should be 3-5 pages (not including the references/bibliography) in length (.5% reduction for every ½ page over 5 pages), 11 or 12 pitch font, preferably Arial or Times New Roman. Your margins should be 1” on both sides and at the top and bottom of your essay. Your submission should take the standard form of an essay with an introduction, body and conclusion. Please use APA citation & referencing styles. You must upload your paper to LEARN by 12:50 pm Sept 30th. All assignments must be uploaded to LEARN; no hard copies will be accepted. **Emailed assignments will not be accepted.** If you want to submit your paper after 12:50 pm on Sept 30th, you must contact me and I will arrange for you to upload your paper to LEARN for a late penalty of 5% per day up to 10 days after the due date, after which your paper will no longer be accepted. Please note, grading inquiries will not be responded to.

### Group Presentations
**Due Date:** Nov 18th – Dec 2nd  
**Weight:** 25%

The intent of this assignment is to provide students the opportunity to work collaboratively to investigate and analyse an issue related to poverty in order to demonstrate your understanding of poverty and the complex and interconnected causes of poverty and its consequences. You will be matched up with two other group mates on Sept 18th and your group will select a topic for your presentation. Presentations should be no more than 25-30 minutes. You should summarize the current knowledge about your topic and present it in an appealing, easy to follow way. Each group member must contribute to the presentation. Given the limited amount of time to do your presentation, you must make sure your presentation is focussed and honed on a specific topic. The type of knowledge and information should consist of the following topics: topic, definition of poverty as it applies to your topic, current findings/information on the topic (you must do library research for this part), briefly present theories and/or explanations related to your topic and your conclusions with regard to your topic, as well as any related policies or programs designed to address your specific topic. The presentations are limited to weeks 9 and 10, so time is extremely limited, make sure you use it well. Your presentation will be evaluated based on the quality of your presentation and the type(s) of knowledge you summarize in your presentation. Finally, each member of the group must hand in their **Group Experience Report** before they will be assigned a grade for the presentation. Failure to submit a report will result in a grade of 0 on the presentation. Based on your report, I may request a meeting with each member of the group to get further details. The form for the report will be handed out in class.

**Each Group must upload a copy of their presentation to the drop box before** the class they are presenting in and **must hand in a copy of the presentation references on a separate page** (this can be included in the drop-box, or handed to the instructor on the day of the presentation).
Tests: Test 1 October 21st (Weight 25%) & Test 2 November 13th (Weight 25%)
There will be 2 tests in this course. Both tests will be a combination of mix and match questions, fill in the blanks and short answer questions based on all of the material covered in the course. The test 1 on October 21st will cover course lectures, readings and any additional materials handed out in class up to and including October 9th. Test 2 on November 13th will cover all course lectures and readings and additional materials for the whole term.

Mandatory Attendance: November 18th – Dec 2nd Weight 10%
Attendance will be taken during class for the group presentations, November 18th – Dec 2nd, 5 lectures @ 2%/lecture. It will be taken twice per session at random points in each lecture in order to ensure compliance with this policy. If you are there for the first and not the second tally (and vice versa) you will receive a 0 for attendance on that day.

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings - Sharma</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept 4th</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Overview of the Course</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 9th – 11th</td>
<td>Definitions of Poverty</td>
<td>Appendix</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 16th – 18th</td>
<td>Measuring Poverty</td>
<td>Appendix</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 23rd – 30th</td>
<td>Social Inequality &amp; Social Stratification: Sociological Perspectives on Poverty</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td><strong>Reflection Due (Sept 30th) – Weight 15%</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>October 2nd – 9th</td>
<td>Discourses on Poverty: Understanding &amp; Explaining Poverty</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>October 14th</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day – No classes</td>
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<td>**</td>
<td>October 15th – 18th</td>
<td>Fall Reading Week – No classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>October 21th</td>
<td>Test 1 (Weight 25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 23rd</td>
<td>Geography &amp; Poverty</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>October 26th – 30th</td>
<td>Consequences of Poverty: Socio-demographic variations (age, race, indigenous people, etc.) &amp; health consequences.</td>
<td>Chapter 2-6</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nov 4th – 6th</td>
<td>Social Justice and Poverty: Models of Welfare</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 11th</td>
<td>Social Justice and Poverty: Pedagogy of Poverty</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 13th</td>
<td>Test 2 (Weight 25%)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 18th – Dec 2nd</td>
<td>Group Presentations/Attendance Mandatory</td>
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<td><strong>Note: December 2nd is a make-up day for Thanksgiving</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 18th – Dec 2nd</td>
<td>Group Presentations/Attendance Mandatory</td>
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<td><strong>Note: December 2nd is a make-up day for Thanksgiving</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec 3rd</td>
<td>Last Day of Lectures – No Class; Make-up assignment due</td>
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Late Work
Due dates are firm. You are responsible for informing the instructor in advance if you are unable to complete an assignment by the scheduled date. Missed due dates are only acceptable in the case of medical problems (with a UW Verification of Illness Form completed by your doctor), for serious compassionate reasons, or as a pre-arranged accommodation for students with disabilities. Late submissions, without advance permission, will be given a 5% reduction in the total possible grade for
each 24 hours after the due date. No assignments will be accepted if submitted more than one week after the deadline.

**Electronic Device Policy**
Please note that you are permitted to use computers/notebooks during class solely for the purposes of taking notes of course material and completing course assignments. Any other use (e.g. social media) is a distraction to your fellow students and may result in you being asked to leave the classroom.

**Attendance Policy**
Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be prepared for discussion.

**Grading:** The course assessments will be reviewed and relevant documentation (e.g. rubrics) will be handed out and discussed in class. A grading rubric will be used to evaluate each assignment. Assignments will be graded once all the submissions are in. Inquiries regarding when the graded assignments will be returned will not be responded to or answered.

**Unclaimed Student Submissions:** In accordance with UW policy, student assignments, papers, quizzes & exams will be stored for 1 year from the start of the course, after which the material(s) in question will be securely destroyed.

**Posting of Final Grades at Renison College**
It is Renison College policy NOT to post grades at any time or report grades via phone or email.

**Final Examination Policy**
For Fall 2019, the established examination period is December 6-21, 2019. The schedule will be available at the end of September. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see: [https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations](https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations))

**Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:**
The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams.
See [http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html)

**Academic Integrity:**
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour) for more information.

**Discipline:** Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own 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 Administrative Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on
categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties).

Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. Waterloo’s policy on Fair Dealing is available here: https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory. Violation of Canada's Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant, who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there are grounds. Students who believe they have grounds for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):** http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html
**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):** http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

**Note for Students with Disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), 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 AAS office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Intellectual Property:**

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:
- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)
- work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in Policy 71 – Student Discipline. Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor’s intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

**Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.
On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 xt 32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek form Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- OK2BME: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website
Download UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)
Download the WatSafe app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

A respectful living and learning environment for all

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

If you experience or witness harassment or discrimination, seek help. You may contact Credence & Co., Renison’s external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officers, by email (info@credenceandco.com) or by phone (519-883-8906). Credence & Co. is an independent K-W based firm which works with organizations toward thriving workplace cultures, including professional coaching, consulting, facilitation, policy development, conflict mediation and ombudsperson functions.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.