



Seminar: Poverty

4010F

Fall 2022

Prerequisite(s): 0.5 course from [Centre for Global Studies 3001F/G-3005F/G](#) or permission of the Centre for Global Studies.

Your Professor

Dr. Lucas Savino
lsavino2@uwo.ca

Class meetings

This class meets once a week, every **Wednesday** from 9:30am to 12:30pm in room **H233**.

One-on-one consultations

My office is in room **A208**.

Wednesdays 12:30 - 1:30pm
or by appointment (incl. Zoom)

In the event of unexpected class cancellations, the instructor will post such notice on OWL. Please check regularly.



Antonio Berni, *Manifestación*, 1934. © Museo de Arte Latinoamericano, Buenos Aires. Berni is considered the “father” of political art in Argentina.

Course description and objectives

“Poverty” and “the poor” have been consistently present in the accounts of governments, the media, and academics for centuries. In recent decades, global poverty has been placed on the agenda of development agencies. However, the images of the poor that these accounts have vary according to historical circumstances, power relations, and ideology. These differences, in turn, inform the ways in which notions about “helping the poor” and/or philanthropic impulses emerge.

This course explores the notion of poverty in global development from two main angles: as a set of experiences in people’s everyday life; and as a discursive field and practical interventions that aim at governing the poor. The course also focuses on the political dimension of poverty and anti-poverty grassroots mobilization.

Required Readings



There are four required books for this course (not available in OWL):

Ferguson, James. 2015. *Give a man a fish*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Li, Tania Murray. 2014. *Land's End. Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Lister, Ruth. 2021 (2nd Ed). *Poverty*. London: Polity Press.

Perry, Keisha-Khan. 2013. *Black Women Against the Land Grab*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press.

These books are available for a 2-hour loan at the Huron Library.

In preparation of the research assignments, I strongly recommend you use this book:

Turabian, Kate L. 2010. *Student's Guide to Writing College Papers*. 4th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Seminars will be conducted under the assumption that we have completed and studied the readings before class.

Please note that the course calendar is subject to change. Appropriate notice will be given in class and/or OWL.

Weekly meetings: topics	Readings
Week 1 (Sep. 14) Introduction(s)	Lister (Intro, 1-13) Ferguson (Intro. 1-33) Perry (Intro, xi - xxi) Li (Intro, 1-29)
Week 2 (Sep. 21) Defining and Measuring Poverty. Revalorizing distribution.	Lister (Ch. 1, 2) Ferguson (Ch. 1)
Week 3 (Sep. 28) Social protection, everyday practices, and the livelihoods of the poor. Role of inequality.	Ferguson (Ch. 2, 3) Lister (Ch. 3)
Week 4 (Oct. 5) Discourses of Poverty. The social life of debt and of cash payments.	Lister (Ch. 4) Ferguson (Ch. 4, 5)
Week 5 (Oct. 12) Agency. From dependence to a politics of sharing.	Ferguson (Ch. 6) Lister (Ch. 5, 6)
Week 6 (Oct. 19) Beyond discipline: the poor as political agents	Lister (Conclusion) Ferguson (Conclusion)
Week 7 (Oct. 26) Poverty as a relational position: the role of violence	Li (Ch. 1) Perry (Ch. 1)
<i>Fall Reading Week</i> (Oct. 31 - Nov. 4)	
Week 8 (Nov. 9) Poverty as the fear of removal	Perry (Ch. 2, 3) Li (Ch. 2)
Week 9 (Nov. 16) Poverty as enclosure: illegality's disciplining effects	Li (Ch. 3) Perry (Ch. 4)
Week 10 (Nov. 23) Poverty and violence under capitalist expansion	Perry (Ch. 5) Li (Ch. 4)
Week 11 (Nov. 30) What happens when "development" doesn't hold?	Li (Ch. 5, Conclusion) Perry (Ch. 6, Conclusion)
Week 12 (Dec. 7) Wrap-up	<i>Class discussion of students' research on poverty.</i>



Course Requirements

This course requires ongoing reading, writing, collaborative work and class discussion

Seminar Presentations

Each student will be responsible for leading and facilitating one seminar discussion this term.

Sign-up sheets will be available on the first day of class.

Students have the freedom to be creative in how they deliver their seminar presentation and how they engage the rest of the class but please note that the seminar presentation should not offer mere summaries or reports of what is written or argued in the assigned readings.

Presentations are graded on substance, not style. The presenter must engage with the arguments and core concepts from the readings and provide a critical interpretation of the texts assigned for that week. It should also include questions for further class discussion.

Each presentation should last approximately 45 minutes. It is *highly recommended* that presenters provide the class with a one-page handout, including the questions prepared for discussion.

Students who miss their presentation without prior arrangement with the instructor will be given a grade of zero.

Research Proposal

The research proposal is the first step in your ongoing preparation of a final research essay. Its goal is to narrow down a topic of interest and present relevant bibliography that addresses such topic in order to support a main argument. At this stage, it should be very clear that you have found enough sources to prepare the final essay.

Handout # 1 (“Proposal”) offers additional guidelines for this assignment (available on OWL). This handout also offers a list of essay topics related to course themes.

Research Essay

The main objective of the research essay is to give students an opportunity to elaborate a clear argument and provide strong scholarly evidence to support it. The final essay must draw from the research proposal and feedback provided by instructor.

Handout # 2 (“Essay”) provides additional guidelines for the preparation of this assignment (available on OWL).

GRADES DESCRIPTION

Exceptional = above 90 (A+). Went beyond expectations. One could expect little more from a student at this level.

Strong = 80-89 (A). Superior work which is clearly above average.

Average = 70-79 (B). Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory.

Average/Weaker = 60-69 (C). Displayed average capability in some areas but no particular strengths. Meets basic requirements.

Not acceptable = below 50 (F). Failure. Work is unsatisfactory and does not meet basic requirements.

Class Engagement

Each week, students are expected to engage in the seminar in a meaningful manner. As such, it is expected that you will provide some brief commentary on the weekly readings before coming to class and contribute to class discussions.

Before each seminar begins, you are expected to submit, via OWL, a brief note on the required readings (150 words min.) You do not need to submit this note on the day you are leading the seminar – the grade received for the seminar presentation will be used for this entry.

Weekly entries may include quotes from the readings as long as you explain, for example, why you chose them or why you find them significant for understanding the weekly topics. You may also include questions that merit, in your opinion, further engagement. Be prepared to share these notes in class as they will form the basis for class discussion alongside questions that seminar facilitators prepare.

Each week the grade for “class engagement” will be based on the note you submit and your contributions in class.

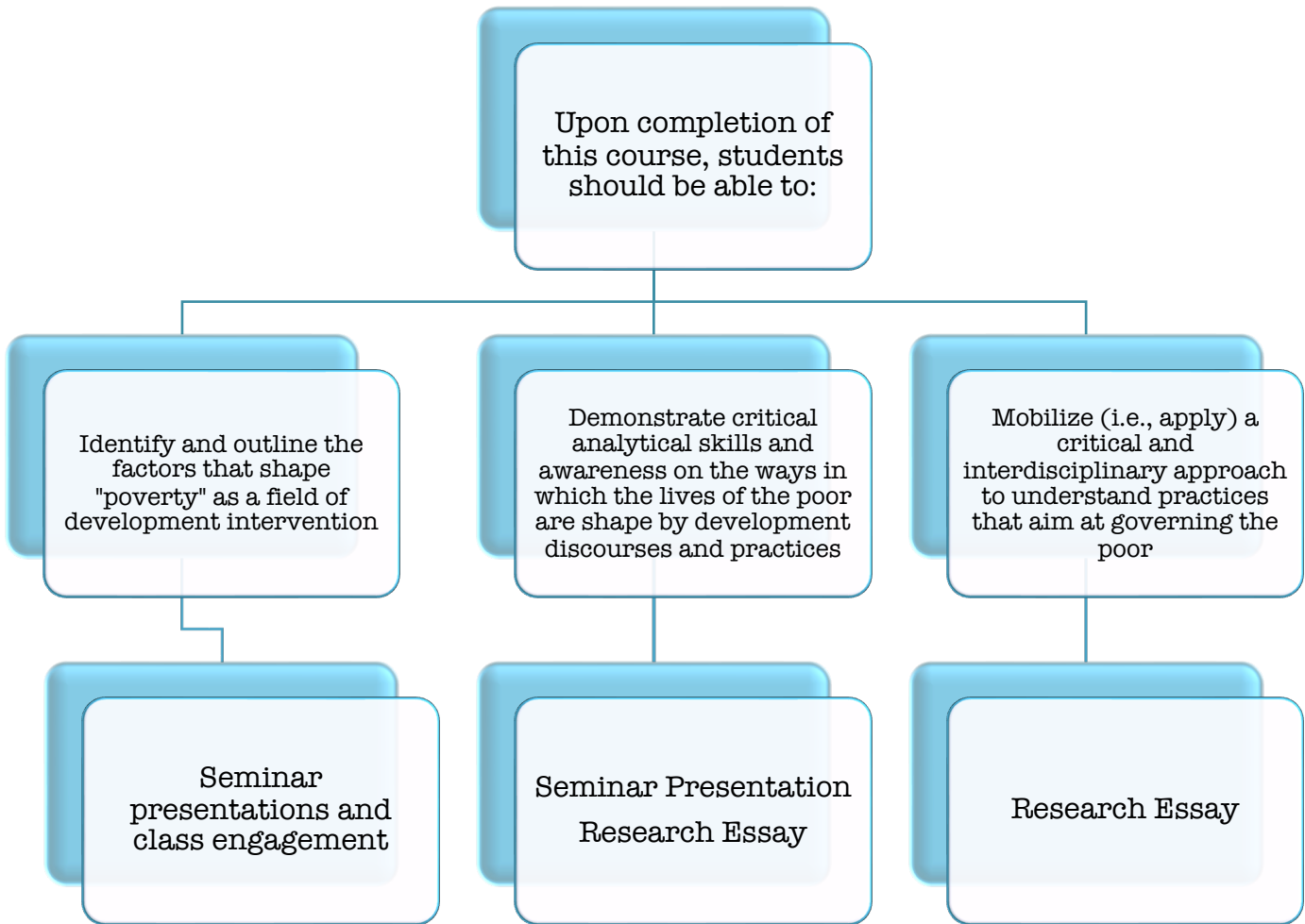
A grade will be calculated for each seminar. Absence means a grade of zero. In case of absences justified under university policy, contact your academic counsellor. Attendance records will be updated accordingly after receiving confirmation from academic counselling.

Evaluation Summary

Seminar Presentation	15%	Sign-up Sheet
Research Proposal	25%	Week 6 (Oct. 19)
Research Essay	35%	Week 12 (Dec. 7)
Class Engagement	25%	Ongoing



Learning Outcomes



“While the earnings of a minority are growing exponentially, so too is the gap separating the majority from the prosperity enjoyed by those happy few. This imbalance is the result of ideologies which defend the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation [...] A new tyranny is thus born, invisible and often virtual, which unilaterally and relentlessly imposes its own laws and rules.”

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 2013

© Giacomo Ceruti (said Pitocchetto), *Porteur assi with baskets*. Brescia, 1735.
Creative Commons licensed photo by Flickr user jean louis mazieres



Contact information

Email policy

The best way to reach me is via email:

lsavino2@uwo.ca

I will do my best to reply as soon as possible. If you do not get an immediate reply, please allow at least 48 hours if you need to send me a reminder.

I usually do not check my emails after 5pm or on weekends.

Important! Please use the course number as part of the subject line for your emails. This will ensure a faster reply as my electronic correspondence gets sorted automatically.

Due to privacy guidelines, you must use your university email account for contacting me.

Make an appointment

If my office hours do not work, please email me to set up an appointment **via**

Zoom.

A note on returned assignments and appeals

Frequently students wish to discuss the results of their assignments immediately upon receiving their grade and feedback. Every effort will be made to provide substantial feedback on assignments with the intention of making the grading clear, and also to help you improve regardless if the assignments receives an “A” or a “C.”

If you still have questions or concerns about the results of your assignment, please make an appointment to see me and discuss further. You must also wait 24 hours after receiving your assignment and grade before contacting me to discuss your results. In addition, you must set up an appointment no later than 7 days after receiving your grade if you wish to meet and discuss, or appeal.

You may also appeal your overall grade, or the grade of any specific assignment.

To appeal a grade, please consider the following steps:

1. Have an informed discussion with me. This step must be initiated (i.e. set up an appointment) within 7 days of receiving your grade.

2. If you still find the explanation of your grade unsatisfactory, you may appeal your grade in writing. This written submission must be sent to me within 14 days of receiving your grade. You are to write an email indicating the ways in which believe your assignment met the requirements – with evidence cited – as well as the grade you believe reflects the quality of your work.

Please keep in mind that the onus is on you to demonstrate that your work meets the requirement set out for the assignment, and not for me to defend the mark allocated. No grade change will be considered without submitting a formal appeal in writing. Please be aware that the formal appeal process may result in your grade going up or down.

For more information about the University’s appeal guidelines visit: uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf

“The event of pauperism is as much about ‘morals,’ forms of everyday life, families, breadwinners, households, and self-responsibility, as economics, the state, poor laws, and poor policies.” *M. Dean (1988)*

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. 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.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

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.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on 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 website: [Academic](#)

[Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca) .The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

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>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on 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.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade:
Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.uwo.ca/academic-calendar/)