

IDEV*3000: POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

International Development Studies
University of Guelph

Fall 2021
Ryan Briggs

Classes: This course is half online and half in-person. The online part is made up of asynchronous videos and quizzes. New content will be released Thursday and due Tuesday evening. Most Thursday classes will be live and in-person. See the schedule for more info.

Location and time for live classes: 8:30–9:50am, MACS Room 121

Email: rbriggs@uoguelph.ca

Office hours: Thursday, 2:30 to 4 in MacKinnon 904, or by appointment on Zoom.

Course Description

This course explores the nature and determinants of poverty and inequality at the local and global levels and the interrelationship between these. It examines the patterns and dynamics of poverty and inequality, for example over time and geographically. In so doing, it explores the nature and practical application of alternative approaches to their assessment and measurement. Students will reflect on and critically assess diverse approaches to reducing poverty and inequality locally and globally.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze the nature and determinants of poverty and inequality at the local and global levels and links to alternative theoretical perspectives on development and to the wider development landscape.
2. Compare and assess alternative approaches to reducing poverty and inequality at the local and global levels.
3. Design, implement and assess the output of specific qualitative and quantitative research methods for the analysis of poverty and inequality and the impact of related development policies and practices.
4. Summarize and communicate, in written and oral form, the analysis of poverty and inequality and the impact of related development policies and practices.

Readings

The required text for the course is:

- Ravallion, M. (2016). *The Economics of Poverty: History, Measurement and Policy*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Readings for each week are defined below. Any readings aside from the required text will be posted on Courselink.

Assessments

Assignment	Value	Due Date
“Questions and comments” submissions	10%	Rolling (5)
Quizzes	10%	Rolling (7)
Midterm exam 1	25%	Oct 15
Midterm exam 2	25%	Nov 12
Final exam	30%	Dec 4

“Questions and comments” submissions

Over the course you have to hand in 5 papers where you briefly, in 1 paragraph, describe something that you did not understand about the reading. You will turn these in by 11:30pm on any Tuesday where we have a substantive class. I will then tailor Thursday’s class based on these questions. These are graded pass/fail and are each worth 2% of your final grade. If you hand in more than 5 of these papers, then I will keep only the top 5.

Quizzes

On Tuesdays when we have a substantive class (eg not a day with a test) there will also be a quiz. It is due by 11:30pm Tuesday. They will generally be multiple choice and will be based on the videos and textbook content from that week. I will keep only the top 7 quiz grades.

Midterm Exam 1

The first midterm exam will primarily evaluate your understanding of conceptual material. It will cover material from the start of the course until the date of the midterm. It will be done in person.

Midterm Exam 2

The second midterm exam will cover material from the start of the course until the date of the midterm, but the focus of the exam will be on new material covered after the first midterm. It will be done in person.

Take home final exam

The final take home exam will cover everything that we learned in the course. It will ask you to synthesize across the weekly topics as well as demonstrate mastery of the individual topics. Honestly, right now I have no idea how I will run this exam. It might be like the midterms (if I decide that those worked well) or it might be something different. We will talk about this and I will post further instructions later in the course.

Weekly Schedule

About half of the classes (in white) are asynchronous. This means that I will post material for you to complete *by that date*, but not at any specific time. Classes in grey are live and will be held in-person at our scheduled time slot of 8:30 in the morning. I didn't pick the time.

#	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Sept 9	In-person Introduction	The syllabus
2	Sept 14	Early history of thinking about poverty	Chapter 1
3	Sept 16	In-person Q&A	-
4	Sept 21	Post-1950s thinking about poverty	Chapter 2
5	Sept 23	In-person Q&A	-
6	Sept 28	Measuring welfare	Chapter 3
7	Sept 30	In-person Q&A	-
8	Oct 5	Poverty lines	Chapter 4
9	Oct 7	In-person Q&A	-
10	Oct 12 (break)	-	-
11	Oct 14	Midterm 1	-
12	Oct 19	Poverty and inequality measures	Chapter 5 (until end of 5.3)
13	Oct 21	In-person Q&A	-
14	Oct 26	Dimensions of poverty and inequality	Chapter 7
15	Oct 28	In-person Q&A	-
16	Nov 2	Growth, inequality, and poverty	Chapter 8
17	Nov 4	In-person Q&A	-
18	Nov 9	In-person midterm 2 review	-
19	Nov 11	Midterm 2	-
20	Nov 16	Economy wide and sectoral policies	Chapter 9
21	Nov 18	In-person Q&A	-
22	Nov 23	Targeted interventions	Chapter 10
23	Nov 25	In-person Q&A	-
24	Nov 30	In-person final class	Chapter "Conclusions"

Policy Statements

Trying our best during a global pandemic

You are trying to learn—and I am trying to teach—during a global pandemic. If we're lucky, all that will mean for us is that the semester will be more stressful than usual. I'm usually pretty strict with basically everything related to my courses, and I usually hold myself to the same high standard that I hold my students. For example, I expect things turned in on time and in return I grade material and get it back to students quickly. But seriously, there is a global pandemic going on. So let's just agree that we will all try our best. I will cut you some slack, and I expect you to cut me some slack, provided that we communicate with each other about our needs and constraints.

COVID-19 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the [COVID-19 website](#) and circulated by email.

E-mail Communication

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their @uoguelph.ca e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet a course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) via an email or in writing as soon as possible. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate>.

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate>.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding

by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar under Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures and then Academic Misconduct: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate>.

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>. If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counselling Office: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact-baco>.