



Econ2168A 570
Political Economy of High-Income Countries
Fall 2026

Instructor: Jingjing Huo, PhD
Email: jhuo27@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: In-Person

Calendar Description:

This course uses economic theory to explain political behaviours and institutional choices in high-income countries. Through rational-choice frameworks, students examine how incentives, political structures, and social conditions, such as inequality, employment, and technological change, shape conflict, identity, governance, and ultimately the wellbeing of different countries.

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B.

Anti-requisite(s): Economics 2194A/B if taken in 2024-25.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: ECONOMIC

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol 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.

Economics 2168A: Political Economy of Rich Countries

Fall, 2026

1. Instructor Contact Information

Jingjing Huo
jjhuo@uwaterloo.ca

2. Office Hours

11:30am-12:30pm Tuesdays

3. Course Description: Students will gain an understanding about the main similarities and differences between the major economies in the rich world. Through a variety of research-based reading and data analysis, students will gain the skills to compare political and economy systems across countries and time. Students will critically reflect on issues such as poverty, inequality, female employment, and technological disruption, to understand the structures, interests, and processes that shape the wellbeing of rich countries.

4. Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should:

- Be able to understand the basic concepts and theories introduced in this course
- Be able to apply these theories in the appropriate empirical context

5. Mode of Instruction

In-person

6. Course Materials:

No required reading materials.

7. Methods of Evaluation

Component / Activity	Date or Due Date	Location / Submission Method	Weight (%)
In-Class Test on 1 st and 2 nd Module (Political Left and Right; Poverty and Inequality)	To be held after this module is completed. Exact date will be announced upon the completion of the relevant module(s).	in-person, closed book	20%

In-Class Test on 3 rd Module (Comparing Welfare States)	To be held after this module is completed. Exact date will be announced upon the completion of the relevant module(s).	in-person, closed book	25%
In-Class Test on 4 th and 5 th Module (Political Economy of Employment; Political Economy of Growth)	To be held after this module is completed. Exact date will be announced upon the completion of the relevant module(s).	in-person, closed book	25%
Final exam (covering only the 6 th and 7 th Modules: Political Economy of Gender; Political Economy of Decline)	to be determined	in-person, closed book	30%

8. Academic consideration for absences, missed in-semester assessments

- a. A new Policy on Academic Consideration came into effect on September 1, 2025: [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)
- b. “Academic consideration” refers to consideration granted due to “personal circumstances beyond the student’s control that have a substantial but temporary impact on the student’s ability to meet essential academic requirements.”
- c. Examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods (December, April) always require formal supporting documentation.
- d. See this Centre for Teaching and Learning resource on flexibility in assessment with further examples: <https://teaching.uwo.ca/teaching/assessing/academic-consideration-policy.html>

9. Academic Integrity, Remote Proctoring

- a. Academic offenses
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- b. Policy on the Use of AI
Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, co-pilot, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

c. Notice of Turnitin Analysis

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>).

10. Make-Up Assessments

The Exam Office operates a centralized make-up service to support faculty with the administration of approved make-up assessments. As of September 1, 2026, students will incur a fee of \$45.00 per make-up assessment booked with the Exam Office.

11. Special Exams

The Exam Office centrally runs formal Special Exam Days to support instructors with administering approved special exams. As of September 1, 2026, for any Special Exams booked outside of the designated special exam days, students will incur a fee of \$75.00. The designated Special Exam Days for 2026-27 are January 8 and 9, 2027, and May 7 and May 12, 2027

12. Schedule of Course Modules

September 9, 14, 16 ---- Left and Right in Political Economy

September 21, 23, 28, 30 ---- Poverty and Inequality

October 5, 7, 19, 21 ---- Comparing Welfare States

October 26, 28, November 2 ---- The Political Economy of Employment

November 4, 9, 11, 16, 18 ---- The Political Economy of Growth

November 23, 25, 30 ---- The Political Economy of Gender

December 2, 7, 9 ---- The Political Economy of Decline

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2026-2027

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found [here](#) Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under Special Examinations).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://kings.uwo.ca/community/library/services/accessibility/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's (Western) is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

Mental Health and Wellness at King's - King's University College

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see https://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/about/governance/policies/board/Board%20Policy%203_1%20Code%20of%20Student%20Responsibilities%20and%20Conduct.pdf

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

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.