

**POL 438: Poverty and Politics  
2016, Mondays 10-12, LA340**

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Office hours: Tuesdays 10-12, Munk 357 South House

Attendance for this seminar is mandatory.

Readings: Students are required to purchase (i) William Watson, *The Inequality Trap*; (ii) Janice Perlman, *Favela*; (iii) William Easterly, *The White Man's Burden*. These are available at the UT bookstore. The Stephens' reading will be available as a PDF on the course blackboard. The other books are available electronically through the University of Toronto Library (UTL); these can also be purchased.

Evaluation: This is a writing intensive course. Students will complete five written assignments throughout the term. Assignments and due dates are listed in the syllabus. Assignments are to be double-spaced, 12 font, and handed in class-time.

Assignments 1 to 4 (4 X 10%)	40%
Final Assignment	20%
Seminar participation	20%

\*\* PENALTY: all late assignments will be assessed a deduction of 5% per day (including papers handed in late on the paper due date).

Academic Integrity: Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offences and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, as well as advice on writing, please see

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize> and  
<http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/plagiarism>.

Accessibility Needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodation for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible ([disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or [studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility](http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility)).

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**September 12**

William Watson, *Inequality Trap: Fighting Capitalism Instead of Poverty* (UTP, 2015) – Chapter 1

**September 19**

Watson, *Inequality Trap* (rest of book)

## **September 26**

John D. Stephens, *The Transition From Capitalism to Socialism* (MacMillan, 1979) – Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5 (PDF on blackboard)

*Assignment #1:*

*Defending the welfare state (750 word blog)*

## **October 3**

David Rueda, *Social Democracy Inside Out: Partisanship and Labor Market Policy in Industrialized Democracies* (Oxford UP, 2007) (available electronically at UTL) – Chapters 1-6

## **October 17**

Jesook Song, *South Koreans in the Debt Crisis: The Creation of a Neoliberal Welfare Society* (Duke UP, 2009) (available electronically at UTL) – Chapters 1-5

*Assignment #2:*

*Who are the poor? (750 word blog)*

## **October 24**

Janice Perlman, *Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio de Janeiro* (Oxford UP, 2010) – Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8

## **October 31**

Sudhir Venkatesh, *Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor* (Harvard UP, 2006) (available electronically at UTL) – Prologue, Chapters 1-4

## **November 14**

Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be Done About It* (Oxford UP, 2007) (available electronically at UTL) – Chapters 1-7

*Assignment #3:*

*Life on the margins: Blessing or Curse? (750 word blog)*

## **November 21**

William Easterly, *The White Man's Burden: Why the west's efforts to aid the rest have done so much ill and so little good* (Penguin, 2006) – Chapters 1-6, 10, 11

## **November 28**

Pope Francis, Encyclical on Climate Change and Inequality  
(<https://cruxnow.com/church/2015/06/18/read-the-encyclical-for-yourself-laudato-si/>)

**December 5**

James Ferguson, Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on a New Politics of Distribution (Duke UP, 2016)  
(available electronically at UTL)

*Assignment #4:*

*What does the left have to offer? (750 word blog)*

**December 12**

*Final Assignment (2000 word feature length article)*