**History 74**

**Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice in Historical and Global Context**

Winter 2019 Professor Alice O’Connor, MW 2:00-3:15 HFH 1104

Office: HSSB 3252 E-mail: aoconnor@ucsb.edu

Office Hours: Wed. 3:30-5:00 or by appointment

**Course Website**: For all sorts of **vital information** related to this course go to <https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/> and login using your UCSB net id.

**History 74** introduces students to the structural conditions and transformations, sociopolitical inequities, institutional arrangements, and cultural attitudes that have produced and shaped the experience of poverty over time and across the globe. In taking a distinctively historical approach, the course will offer students an understanding of poverty they may not have encountered in other classes or service experiences: not as an isolated problem to be measured and solved or “alleviated,” but as a condition of material deprivation and sociocultural marginalization that is produced within unequal relations of power and control over resources. While exploring its structural roots, the course will consider how poverty is experienced by individuals, households and families, communities, geographic regions, and nations, and within and across lines of class, race, gender, and identity. It will also show how poverty has given rise to variously punitive and benevolent traditions of organized social intervention, including religiously sanctioned charity, incarceration, institutionalized philanthropy, social investigation and reform, global development, and welfare states. And it will examine how poverty, as structural fact and social experience, has given rise to social and political movements organized around more fundamentally democratic demands for economic justice.

**Course Format:** The course is lecture/discussion section format, with lectures by Professor O’Connor or a guest from the History Department bringing insights from her or his area of expertise. In discussion sections you will integrate readings, lectures and other assignments in exchange with your TA and peers.

**Course Requirements:** Regular attendance at ALL lectures and discussion sections is a MUST. Both will cover material not included in the readings, and for which you will be responsible on midterm and final exams and in written assignments.

**Readings:** Weekly required readings will be posted on the course Gauchospace website and compiled in an electronic History 74 Reader on the course website and e-reserve in the library.

**Assignments:** You will complete two short (3-4 pp.) writing assignments—a reflection essay and a book review—and one 5-6 page paper (see schedule for due dates). Specifics about these assignments will be provided on the course website and in section.

**N.B. Any registered student** who does not attend section or contact the T.A. during the **first** week of classes or who misses the first two weeks of section will automatically be dropped from the course.

Plagiarism involves using the words or analysis of a source (including the internet!) without full citation. Any student caught cheating in any fashion will fail the course, and face disciplinary action from the university. For more on university policy, see <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/>.

**Exams:** You will show us what you’re learning on an in-class midterm (**Feb. 6)** and a three-hour final (**March 18, 4-7pm**). Both will be essay/brief identification/answer format. Make-up exams must be arranged well in advance with a legitimate reason and the approval of your T.A. in consultation with the instructor. Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations for exams through the UCSB **Disabled Students Program** at <http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/>. Please make arrangements **early** in the quarter.

Your grade will be based on the midterm (15%); two shorter written assignments (15%); section participation (20%); the 5-6 page paper (20%), and final (30%).

Grading will be done by your T.A., based on standards determined in consultation with the instructor. Remember, you CANNOT pass this course unless you complete ALL of the above requirements—midterm, papers, section, final.

Week One

Jan. 7 Course Introduction

Jan. 9 Rethinking Conventional Narratives

Week Two

Jan. 14 Prof. Elizabeth DePalma Digeser: Poverty, Power, and Patronage in Imperial Rome

Jan. 16 “With Ye Always”: Poverty and Moral Economy

# Week Three

Jan. 21 No class meeting: Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 23 Prof. Sharon Farmer, The ‘Deserving’ Poor: Gender and the Evolution of Relief in Medieval Paris

**\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 (reflection essay) DUE Jan. 23rd in lecture\*\*\***

# Week Four

Jan. 28 “The Best Poor Man’s Country?” Poverty and New World Conquest

Jan. 30 Poverty, Property, and Environmental Change in Early America

Week Five

Feb. 4 Race, Empire and the Atlantic Slave Trade

Feb. 6 **MIDTERM** (Blue books required)

Week Six

Feb. 11 Making Way for the Market: Poor Law Reform

Feb. 13 Prof. Erika Rappaport, The Factory and the Workhouse: Poverty and the Making of an Industrial Workforce

# Week Seven

Feb. 18 President’s Day Holiday (no class meeting)

Feb. 20 Social Investigation, Philanthropy, and the Roots of the Welfare State

**\*\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 (book review) DUE Feb. 20th in lecture\*\*\*\***

# Week Eight

Feb. 25 Professor Utathya Chattopadhyaya, The Bengal Famine, 1942-3: War, Empire, and Debt

Feb. 27 Freedom from Want and the Invention of Development

Week Nine

Mar. 4 Wars on Poverty

Mar. 6 Professor Stephan Miescher, City of the Future: Ghana’s Development Dreams

**\*\*\*\*\*\*PAPER DUE March 6th in class\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Ten

Mar. 11 Prof. Mhoze Chikowero, Colonialism and Reclamation in Southern Africa

Mar. 13 Poor People’s Movements and Struggles for Democracy

**Final Exam: Monday, March 18, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**