**History 74**

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

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

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

Office Hours: Mon. 11:30-12:30 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 economic, social, and political disfranchisement 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 equality and economic justice.

**Course Format:** The course is lecture/discussion section format, with lectures by Professor O’Connor or a guest bringing insights from their 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 (2-3 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 (**Oct. 30)** and a three-hour final (**Dec 9, 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

Sept. 30 Course Introduction

Oct. 2 What’s in a Number?: The Measure and Concept of Poverty

Week Two

Oct. 7 Poverty, Piety, and Patronage in Pre-Modern History

Oct. 9 “With Ye Always”?: Poverty and Moral Economy

# Week Three

Oct. 14 The “Deserving Poor”: Early Modern Poor Laws

Oct. 16 The “Undeserving Poor”: the Logic and Legacy of Malthus

**\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 (reflection essay) DUE Oct. 14 in lecture\*\*\***

# Week Four

Oct. 21 “The Best Poor Man’s Country?” Poverty and New World Conquest

Oct. 23 Poverty, Property, and Environmental Change in Early America

Week Five

Oct. 28 Race, Empire and the Atlantic Slave Trade

Oct. 30 **MIDTERM** (Blue books required)

Week Six

Nov. 4 Prof. Erika Rappaport, The Factory and the Workhouse: Poverty and the Making of an Industrial Workforce

Nov. 6 The Political Economy of Capitalism and Poor Law Reform

# Week Seven

Nov. 11 Veterans’ Day Observed (no class meeting)

Nov. 13 Social Investigation, Philanthropy, and the Roots of the Welfare State

**\*\*\*\*\*SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 (book review) DUE Nov. 13th in lecture\*\*\*\***

# Week Eight

Nov. 18 Professor Utathya Chattopadhyaya, The Bengal Famine, 1942-3: War, Empire, and Debt

Nov. 20 Freedom from Want and the “Birth” of Development

Week Nine

Nov. 25 Wars on Poverty

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Eve (no class meeting)

**\*\*\*\*\*\*PAPER DUE Nov. 25th in lecture\*\*\*\*\*\***

# Week Ten

Dec. 2 Professor Stephan Miescher, Development Dreams/Environmental Realities: Ghana’s “Greatest Lake”

Dec. 4 Poor People’s Movements and Struggles for Democracy

**Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 9, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**