# Liberal Studies Colloquium – LBST 2010
# Prof. Vincent Rama

## Course Overview

Our theme for this course is poverty. We will use the disciplines of economics, medicine, education and ethical theory to evaluate both the causes of poverty and possible remedies. This is a writing-intensive course. By the middle of each week of the course, all students will complete the reading assignment and write an outline of the major position and supporting arguments of the author. After completing the reading and developing the outline, students will write position papers analyzing the author's position on poverty.  At the end of the course, each student will produce an eight to nine-page final paper composed of the position papers written earlier in the semester and their own position on poverty.

## Video Discussions

This course includes both weekly online interaction and two scheduled video classes. You will have a choice of 3 different time slots to choose from for each video session. I will try to limit each session to 7 students. Video sessions will last for approximately 90 minutes. See the list of video sessions and possible time slots below:

| Date | Topic | Time Slots Available |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Video Session 1 | Review Syllabus, Course Schedule and Course Map | 12/13 7pm<br>12/14 7pm<br>12/15 7pm |
| Video Session 2 | Discussion of Poverty and Healthcare & Feedback on Writing Assignments | 1/6 7pm<br>1/7 7pm<br>1/8 10am |

Attendance at one session for each of the two video discussions is mandatory. Students who cannot attend a video class may complete an additional writing assignment to fulfill this requirement.

## Online Discussions

All other class participation will be online via Blackboard. You will have mid-week and end of week assignment deadlines throughout the course. All assignments and due dates are listed in the Course Map on Blackboard in the Syllabus folder.

## Blackboard

We will use Blackboard extensively for this course. The web address for the Blackboard site is **http://bb.wpunj.edu/**. You are expected to visit the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis. All components of this course will be available through the Blackboard site:

- Announcements
- Links to all weekly required reading assignments
- Group communication and collaboration
- Grade Postings
- Assignment details and supplementary documentation

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**Texts and Reading Assignment**

1) Students are required to complete readings during every week of the course.
2) Students are not required to purchase texts for this course.
3) All reading assignments can be accessed through the library eBooks collection or through links on the Course Materials page on Blackboard.
4) <u>Readings assignments are due mid-week to allow time for the writing of outlines and position papers</u> Deadlines for the readings are posted in the Course Map on Blackboard.

**Assignments**

1) Participation in two video classes (10%)
   - Students must attend 1 of 3 possible sessions for each of the 2 video classes
   - Students will prepare for and actively participate in the video class discussions (using the outlines they have written for the required reading assignments).
2) Weekly Outlines of Required Reading Assignment (10%)
   - Students will develop a one -page outline of both the major position presented in the article and the arguments used by the author to support her or his position.
   - Students will save the outlines to the Journal area on Blackboard.
3) Position Papers (30%)
   - Every week students will write a two-page position paper based upon their outline of the major position presented in the required reading and the arguments used by the author to support her or his position.
   - Students will also produce a revision of each position paper based upon feedback from the grading report from Professor Rama.
4) Final Paper (50%)
   - 8-9 pages
   - Includes the three two-page position papers written and revised during the semester
   - Add an introduction, a conclusion and one to two pages communicating your position on poverty.

**Contact Information for Professor Vincent Rama**

**Email**            ramav@wpunj.edu
**Office Hours**
Email is the preferred method for contacting me.  When sending email to me, please use your William Paterson email and not your personal email.  You should check your William Paterson email regularly.  If I need to make an announcement between classes, I will post it on Blackboard and send an email to the class.  I will only send email to your William Paterson email account.

We will use Blackboard Collaborate when face-to-face conversations are needed.

**WPU Policy on Academic Integrity**

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Academic Integrity is taken very seriously. This course adheres strictly to the Academic Integrity Code of William Paterson University: https://www.wpunj.edu/human-resources/faculty-and-professional-staff-handbook/academic-integrity-policy-for-students.html

As far as this course is concerned, be aware that all student assignments will be subject to audit through plagiarism detection software of the Professor's choosing. The sanction to be imposed on any student committing plagiarism will be a failing grade for the course.

**Disability Support Resources**

Please inform me of any special needs as early as possible (within the first two weeks of the semester) so that those needs can be met in a timely manner. If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact me and the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 973-720-2853 or check out the website at https://www.wpunj.edu/accessibilityresourcecenter/.

Furthermore, the University requires that all students with mobility impairments file their schedules with the Campus Police Department each semester. This information will be used only in the event of a fire or other emergency. Students may contact Campus Police at (973)720-2300.

**Women's Center**

The Women's Center also includes LGBTQA resources on their website and at the Center itself. The Women's Center is located in the John Victor Machuga Student Center on the third floor, Room 313. Telephone: 973.720.2946 Fax: 973.720.3644 Email: womenscenter@wpunj.edu Website: https://www.wpunj.edu/womens-center/index.html

**Cheng Library**

Drop-in reference assistance is available 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on most days at the Reference Desk. Email reference questions to refdesk@wpunj.edu, call 973-720-2116 or click theaskLive icon on the Library Homepage to chat with a librarian. For philosophy specific research and library questions please contact Bob Wolk (Reference & Specialist Collections, Library 108) via email (wolkr@wpunj.edu).

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**Writing Center**

The Writing Center (www.wpunj.edu/writing-center/) provides one-on-one tutoring for any WPU student working on any kind of writing in any stage of development. We work with students on writing issues such as outlining, thesis clarification, organization, style, transitions, citing, and grammar, and we help them learn how to edit and proofread their own writing. Our aim is not just to produce a better piece of writing; it's to produce a better writer. Students can make an appointment (including virtual appointments via BB collaborate) at https://wpunj.mywconline.com/, or stop by Atrium 128 or VR 3048.

**Counseling**

Students are assisted with identifying and working through personal barriers, normal developmental issues and stressors, and clinical problems which could impede academic success. The Counseling Center is staffed with psychologists, social workers, a psychiatrist consultant, and supervised graduate students. The Counseling Center is located in Overlook South between Matelson and White Hall. Telephone:(973)720-2257 or (973)720-2360 Fax: (973)720-2632 Website: https://www.wpunj.edu/health-wellness/counseling/