

Assignment 3: Three Essays

Due: Upon completion of Unit 9

Weighting: 30% of final grade

Length: Approximately 450-500 words (2 to 3 pages) each; total of 1350 to 1500 words

Instructions: Select any **three (3)** of the following questions and prepare an essay response to each question.

1. How does the Instrumental Rationality of Weber and the Methodological Individualism of Schumpeter differ from their utilitarian counterparts?
2. What is the political economic significance of Schumpeter's creative destruction? Provide a potential example of creative destruction to illustrate your point.
3. Explain the significance of "conspicuous consumption"? Are Veblen's arguments convincing?
4. In the event of an economic downturn, what are some policies that Keynes may have implemented? How do these differ from neoclassical policy prescriptions?
5. What is the significance of race and racialization to political economy? In what ways does incorporating ethno-racial factors strengthen political economic analysis?
6. Does neoliberalism adequately reflect the conditions of contemporary society? How does the rhetoric of freedom and liberty ignore questions of social justice? And are issues of social justice an appropriate consideration for political economists?

Each essay must include the following components:

- a title and a title page;
- a brief introduction that provides an overview of the topic to be discussed;
- a main section that develops and substantiates the issues mentioned in the introduction;
- a summary/conclusion section that pulls together or summarizes what your essay discusses; it should briefly outline the significance of the topic as well as any conclusions you may have reached; and
- a "References" page that properly cites the source of the material referenced in your paper.

If you need help with essay writing or producing a bibliography, go to the Athabasca University Library's "Help Centre" and click on the "[Writing](#)" link. Here you will find advice on researching

and academic writing, proper referencing formats, and preparing bibliographies. If you have any difficulties preparing this assignment, contact your tutor immediately.

When you have completed your two short essays, make copies for your records. Upload your completed assignment as a single document file. **Do not email assignments.**

For more information on using this **Assignment Drop Box**, click on the “Need Additional Help” link. All assignments are marked within five business days of their receipt. Do not forget to return to this page to check for your grade and your tutor’s feedback. When you receive your graded assignment, review your tutor's comments and, if necessary, contact your tutor to discuss the results.