

**POSC 479: WORLD POVERTY  
(CRITICAL ISSUES IN POLITICAL THOUGHT)  
SPRING 2019**

**Professor Jinhee Lee Choung**

Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 - 11:50 am, VKC 2017

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This course provides an introduction to world poverty by addressing three main questions:

1. *What do we know about the causes of extreme poverty, particularly the approximately one billion people living on less than one dollar a day?*
2. *How should we go about fighting poverty? In particular, how do governments address poverty already, and what else should they do?*
3. *What roles and responsibilities do private and international actors have in mitigating poverty?*

In the first part of the course, we will begin with conceptual issues. What do we mean by poverty, inequality and vulnerability? How do we measure them? Who are the world's poor: where do they live, and what do they do? Is world poverty increasing or decreasing? In the next part, we explore some of the main causes of global poverty, including geography, colonialism, civil war, corruption, and globalization. Having identified some of the key causes, we will explore what is being done to fight poverty and, in particular, what we expect the international community and governments to do and whether those expectations are politically feasible. The course will conclude with a discussion of some of the ethical issues surrounding world poverty: What, if anything, do we owe the poor of other countries and why?

The course is designed for students to achieve the following objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of the causes and solutions to the problems of global poverty.
2. Establish an analytical framework with which to assess the validity of various theories, perspectives and facts.
3. Improve written and oral communication skills.