

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

# Rise & Fall of Communism in the USSR & Eastern Europe

## POL 3340F

Fall 2013

Wednesday: 11:30 – 1:30  
Room: KB 106  
Office Hours: Thurs 11:00 – 12:00  
Or by appointment

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### **Course Description**

This course looks at the communist experience in Eastern Europe and the USSR in the twentieth century. It explores the historical, political, ideological, economic, social, and foreign policy dimensions of this era. Students will be encouraged to explore definitions, theoretical and geographic concepts such as Eastern Europe and ideology, think critically, construct their own arguments and present their own views. The course will be conducted in a lecture format, with regular class discussions.

**Prerequisite(s):** Political Science 231E or 245E.

**Anti-requisite:** former History 350F/G, the former Political Science 340F

### **Regulations**

**Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites** *Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.*

## Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are considered extremely serious academic offences and carry penalties varying from failure in an assignment or exam to debarment from the University. All Pol 3340G students are expected to familiarise themselves with the definitions of plagiarism and cheating as established in University of Western Ontario before submitting written work or entering the exam (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism Checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

## Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all classes and do all the required readings. Each class will end with a discussion of current events in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, for which students are required to prepare by following assigned media and electronic news/information sources. A film will be screened during the course and attendance is mandatory. Students will write one short essay due **week 5** and one research paper due **week 11**. A brief topic proposal for the research paper (including some indication of sources) should be submitted by **week 6**. A film will be screened on **28 March 2012**, attendance is mandatory.

## Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the following breakdown:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Class participation	10%	weekly
Short Essay	15%	<b>9 October 2013</b>
Research Paper	35%	20 November 2013 Proposal due <b>16 October 2013</b>
Take Home examination	40%	December exam period

## **Readings**

The collapse of communism and the Soviet Union has caused political scientists and historians to look at the post-communist countries in a new light. There is no textbook for the course. A course reader containing most of the compulsory weekly readings will be available for purchase in the UWO bookstore. Purchase is optional. The readings are also available in 2 hour reserve at the Weldon Library. Additional suggestions may be made throughout the course.

## **Selected Journals**

(many of these are available electronically at Weldon Library)

Canadian Slavonic Papers

Central Asian Survey

Communist and Post-Communist Studies (formerly Studies in Comparative Communism)

Communist Economies and Economic Transformation

Demokratizatsiia

East European Constitutional Review

East European Politics and Societies

Europe-Asia Studies (formerly Soviet Studies)

Journal of Communist Studies

Journal of Democracy

Nationalities Papers

Post-Soviet Affairs (formerly Soviet Economy)

Problems of Post-Communism

Russian History

Russian Review

Slavic Review

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

**Week 1. Introduction to the course, themes, Inventing Eastern Europe**  
(11 September 2013)

Required:

- Davies, Norman, *Europe East and West* (London: Jonathan Cape, 2006),  
Chapter 7
- Garton Ash, Timothy, *History of the Present. Essay, Sketches and Despatches from Europe in the 1990s* (London, New York: Allen Lane and Penguin, 1999), The Visit, pp. 101-104 (you might also want to read the introduction of the book)
- Wolff, Larry, *Inventing Eastern Europe. The Map of Civilization in the Mind of the Enlightenment* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1994), Introduction, pp. 1-16

Recommended:

- Drakulic, Slavenka, "Introduction: First Person Singular," in *Café Europa... Life After Communism* (London: Abacus, 1996): 1-5
- Drakulic, Slavenka, "Café Europa," in *Café Europa... Life After Communism* (London: Abacus, 1996): 6-13
- Garton Ash, Timothy, "Europe's Endangered Liberal Order," in *Foreign Affairs*, 77(7) 1998
- Graubard, Stephen R. (ed.) *Eastern Europe – Central Europe – Europe*. (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1991)
- Magocsi, Paul Robert, *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe* (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1995)
- Wandycz, Piotr S., *The Price of Freedom. A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present* (London and New York: Routledge, 1992), Introduction: What's In A Name, pp. 1-17

### **II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**2. Pre-1944 Political History**  
(18 September 2013)

Required:

- Niederhauser, Emil. *A history of Eastern Europe since the Middle Ages*, translated by Pál Bódy (Boulder, Colo.: Social Science Monographs;

Highland Lakes, N.J.: Atlantic Research and Publications; New York: Distributed by Columbia University Press, 2003), Chapter 11.  
 Pearson, Raymond, *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Empire* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1998), Chapter 1

Recommended:

Bideleux, Robert and Ian Jeffries, *A History of Eastern Europe. Crisis and Change* (London and New York: Routledge, 1998), Part IV, pp. 405-516.  
 Crampton, R. J., *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century – and After*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), Chapter 2  
 Longworth, Philip, *The Making of Eastern Europe. From Pre History to Postcommunism*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1997), Chapter 3  
 Sakwa, Richard, *Soviet Politics in Perspective*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 1998)  
 Schopflin, George, *Politics in Eastern Europe, 1945-1992* (Oxford and Cambridge: Blackwell, 1993)

**3. Library Instruction**

(25 September 2013)

**Please meet at the reference desk at Weldon Library.**

**4. The Communist Takeovers, 1944-1948**

(2 October 2013)

Required:

Crampton, R. J., *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century – and After*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), Chapter 13  
 Naimark, Norman and Leonid Gibianski (eds.) *The Establishment of Communist Regimes in Eastern Europe, 1944-1949* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview, 1997), Introduction  
 Sakwa, Richard, *The rise and fall of the Soviet Union, 1917-1991* (London; New York: Routledge, 1999) pp. 304-312

Recommended:

Borhi, Laszlo G. "Merchants of the Kremlin: The Economic Roots of Soviet Expansionism in Hungary," Working Paper No. 28, Cold War International History Project, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic\\_id=1409&fuseaction=topics.publications&group\\_id=11901](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1409&fuseaction=topics.publications&group_id=11901)

- Burds, Jeffrey, "Agentatura: Soviet Informants Networks and the Ukrainian Underground in Galicia, 1944-1948," *East European Politics and Societies* Vol 11 Winter 1997
- Khrushchev, Nikita, *Khrushchev Remembers* ed. By Strobe Talbot (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Co., 1970)
- Mark, Eduard, "Revolution by Degrees. Stalin's National Front Strategy for Europe." Working Paper No. 31, February 2001, Cold War International History Project, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/ACFB11.pdf>  
[http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic\\_id=1409&fuseaction=topics.publications&group\\_id=11901](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1409&fuseaction=topics.publications&group_id=11901)
- Schopflin, George, *Politics in Eastern Europe, 1945-1992* (Oxford and Cambridge: Blackwell, 1993)

## 5. High Stalinism

(9 October 2013)

### SHORT ESSAY DUE IN CLASS

#### Required:

- Fowkes, Ben, *Eastern Europe, 1945-1969: from Stalinism to stagnation* (Harlow, England; New York: Longman, 2000), Chapter 4
- Khlevniuk, Oleg V., "Stalin as dictator: the personalization of power," Chapter 6, in Sarah Davies and James Harris (eds.) *Stalin: a new history* (Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005), pp. 108-120 (e-book)
- Kravchenko, Victor, *I chose freedom, the personal and political life of a Soviet official* (Garden City, N. Y., Garden City, 1947), Chapter 1

#### Recommended:

- Crampton, R. J., *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century – and After*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), Chapter 15
- Fowkes, Ben, *The Rise and Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995) Chapter 4
- Longworth, Philip, *The Making of Eastern Europe. From Pre History to Postcommunism*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1997)
- Pearson, Raymond, *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Empire* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1998), Chapter 2
- Schopflin, George, *Politics in Eastern Europe, 1945-1992* (Oxford and Cambridge: Blackwell, 1993), Chapter 4
- Swain, Geoffrey and Nigel Swain, *Eastern Europe Since 1945*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1998), Chapter 3

## 6. Revisionism and Decline

(16 October 2013)

## **RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS**

### Required:

Johnson, Lonnie R. *Central Europe : enemies, neighbors, friends.* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), Chapter 12.

Longworth, Philip, *The Making of Eastern Europe. From Pre History to Postcommunism*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1997), Chapter 2

### Recommended:

Bideleux, Robert and Ian Jeffries, *A History of Eastern Europe. Crisis and Change* (London and New York: Routledge, 1998), Chapter 21

Fowkes, Ben, *The Rise and Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995)

Schopflin, George, *Politics in Eastern Europe, 1945-1992* (Oxford and Cambridge: Blackwell, 1993), Chapters 6-8

Swain, Geoffrey and Nigel Swain, *Eastern Europe Since 1945*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1998), Chapter 4-7

Wandycz, Piotr S., *The Price of Freedom. A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present* (London and New York: Routledge, 1992), Chapter 8

## **III. THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM**

### **7. Politics – The Structure**

(23 October 2013)

### Required:

Kornai, Janos, *The Socialist System. The Political Economy of Communism* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992), Chapter 3, Power, pp. 33-48

Shlapentokh, Vladimir, *A normal totalitarian society: how the Soviet Union functioned and how it collapsed.* (Armonk, N.Y; London: M.E. Sharpe, 2001), Chapter 8.

### Recommended:

Brown, Archie and Jack Grey (eds.) *Political Culture and Political Change in Communist States* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London: Macmillan, 1979), Introduction

Huntington, Samuel P. and Clement H Moore (eds.) *Authoritarian Politics in Modern Society: The Dynamics of Established One Party Systems* (New York and London: Basic Books, 1970)

Janos, Andrew (ed.) *Authoritarian Politics in Communist Europe: Uniformity and Diversity in One-Party States* (Berkeley: Institute of International Studies, University of California, 1976), Chapter 1

White, Stephen, John Gardner, George Schopflin and Tony Saich, *Communist and Post-Communist Political Systems: A Introduction* 3ed ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1990), Chapter 1

## **8. Ideology**

(30 October 2013)

### Required:

Kornai, Janos, *The Socialist System. The Political Economy of Communism* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992), Chapter 4, Ideology, pp. 49-61

Malia, Martin, "The Soviet Tragedy: A History of Socialism in Russia. The Stalin Question," in Hoffmann, David L. (ed.) *Stalinism: the essential readings* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003)

### Recommended:

Adam, Jan, *Why Did the Socialist System Collapse in Central and Eastern European Countries? The Case of Poland, the former Czechoslovakia and Hungary* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1996), Chapter 6

Lovenduski, Joni and Jean Woodall, *Politics and Society in Eastern Europe. Comparative Government and Politics* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1987), Chapters 7-8

Nelson, Daniel and Stephen White, *Communist Legislatures in Comparative Perspective* (London: Macmillan, 1982), Chapter 1

Sakwa, Richard, *Soviet Politics. An Introduction* (London and New York: Routledge, 1989), Chapters 6, 7, 10

## **9. Economics**

(6 November 2013)

### Required:

Berend, Ivan T., *Central and Eastern Europe, 1944-1993. Detour from the periphery to the periphery* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), Chapter 5, pp. 182-200

Brown, Michael Barratt, *Models in Political Economy. A Guide to Arguments* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London: Penguin, 1990), Chapter 13

Carson, Richard L. *Comparative Economic Systems. Vol 1.* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, 1997), Chapter 2



Recommended:

- Brown, James F. *Eastern Europe and Communist Rule* (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1988), Chapter 4
- Kornai, Janos, *The Socialist System. The Political Economy of Communism* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992)
- Lovenduski, Joni and Jean Woodall, *Politics and Society in Eastern Europe. Comparative Government and Politics* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1987)
- Marer, Paul. "East European Economics," Chapter 10 in Teresa Rakowska-Harmstone (ed.) *Communism in Eastern Europe*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984)
- Nove, Alec, *An Economic History of the USSR, 1917 – 1991* (London: Penguin Books, 1992), Chapter 11
- Sutela, Pekka, *The Russian Market* (Helsinki, 2004)

**10. Society**

(13 November 2013)

Required:

- Berend, Ivan T., *Central and Eastern Europe, 1944-1993. Detour from the periphery to the periphery* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), Chapter 5, pp. 201-221
- Havel, Vaclav, *The Power of the Powerless: Citizens Against the State in Central-Eastern Europe* (Armonk, NY: M E Sharpe, 1990), Chapter 1
- Yanosik, Joseph, *Plastic People of the Universe* (March 1996)

Recommended:

- Kundera, Milan, *The unbearable lightness of being*. Translated from the Czech by Michael Henry Heim (New York: Harper Perennial, 1984, 1999)
- Falk, Barbara J., *The dilemmas of dissidence in East-Central Europe: citizen intellectuals and philosopher kings* (Budapest; New York: Central European University Press, 2003)
- Feherm Ferenc, "Paternalism as a mode of Legitimation in Soviet-Type Societies," in T. H. Rigby and Ferenc Feher (eds.) *Political Legitimation in Communist States* (London and Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1982)
- Lewis, Paul G. (ed.) *Eastern Europe. Political Crisis and Legitimation* (London, 1984), Chapters 1, 4
- Lovenduski, Joni and Jean Woodall, *Politics and Society in Eastern Europe. Comparative Government and Politics* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1987)
- Milocs, Czeslaw, *The Captive Mind* (Knopf, 1953)
- Peto, Andrea, "Hungarian Women in politics, 1945-51," in Eleonore Breuning, Jill Lewis and Gareth Pritchard (eds.) *Power and the People. A social history*

*of Central European politics, 1945-56* (Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 2005)

## **11. FILM**

(20 November 2013)

### **RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

**Fireman's Ball** (Hori ma panenka) 1967 Czechoslovakia directed by Milocz Forman (71 minutes)

The fire department in a small town is having a big party when the ex-boss of the department celebrates his 86th birthday. The whole town is invited but things don't go as planned. Someone is stealing the prizes to the lottery and the candidates for the Miss Fire-Department beauty contest are neither willing nor particularly beautiful.

## **IV. FOREIGN POLICY AND COLLAPSE**

### **12. Communist Europe and 'The West'**

(27 November 2013)

#### Required:

Churchill, Winston, "The Percentages Agreements," in Gale Stokes (ed.) *From Stalinism to Pluralism. A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), pp. 31-32

Dallin, Alexander, 'The rise of new thinking on Soviet foreign policy,' in Archie Brown (ed.) *The demise of Marxism-Leninism in Russia* (Basingstoke, Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004)

Gaddis, John Lewis, *The Cold War: a new history* (New York: Penguin Press, 2005), Chapter 1.

Sakwa, Richard. *Soviet Politics in Perspective* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 1998), Chapter 16, pp. 254-74

#### Recommended:

Brzezinski, Zbigniew, *The Soviet Bloc. Unity and Conflict* rev. ed. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1963), pp. 67-151

Jacobson, Jon, *When the Soviet Union Entered World Politics* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994) introduction

Kovrig, Bennett, *Of Walls and Bridges. The United States and Eastern Europe* (New York and London: New York University Press, 1991)

- Legvold, Robert, "The Soviet Union and Western Europe," in William E. Griggith (ed.) *The Soviet Empire. Expansion and Détente* (Lexington: Lexington Books, 1976), p. 217-58
- Parish, Scott, "The Marshall Plan, Soviet American Relations and the Division of Europe," in Norman Naimark and Leonid Gibianski (eds.) *The Establishment of Communist Regimes in Eastern Europe, 1944-1949* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1997)
- Thomas, Daniel C. *The Helsinki effect: international norms, human rights, and the demise of communism* (Princeton, N.J.; Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2001)
- Zubok, Vladislav M. *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007)

### 13. Collapse/Implosion/Dissolution

(6 December 2013)

#### Required:

- Phillips, Roderick, *Society, State and Nation in Twentieth Century Europe* (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 1996), Chapter 12, pp. 486-516
- Slavic Review*, Volume 63, No 3, Fall 2004, Discussion, Was the Soviet System Reformable? Stephen F. Cohen, Archie Brown, Mark Kramer, Karen Dawisha, Stephen E. Hanson, Georgi N. Derluguain, reply by Cohen – access on line

#### Recommended:

- Brown, Archie *Seven Years That Changed the World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007)
- Dallin, Alexander, "Causes of the Collapse of the USSR," in Alexander Dallin and Gail W. Lapidus (eds.) *The Soviet System. From Crisis to Collapse 2<sup>nd</sup>* rev. ed. (Boulder, Colo., San Francisco and Oxford: Westview Press, 1995)
- Dahrendorf, Ralf, *Reflections on the Revolutions in Europe* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1990)
- Grachev, Andrei, *Gorbachev's Gamble: Soviet Foreign Policy and the End of the Cold War* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2008)
- Malia, Martin (Z), "To The Stalin Mausoleum." In *Deadalus* Vol 119, No 1 (1990); also in Alexander Dallin and Gail W. Lapidus (eds.) *The Soviet System. From Crisis to Collapse 2<sup>nd</sup>* rev. ed. (Boulder, Colo., San Francisco and Oxford: Westview Press, 1995)
- McAuley, Mary, *Soviet Politics 1917-1991* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1995)

Pearson, Raymond, *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Empire*, Second Edition (Palgrave Macmillan: 2002), Chapters 6 and 7  
Rothchild, Philip, *Return to Diversity. A Political History of East Central Europe Since World War II* 3rd ed. (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), Chapter 7

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

## Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

### **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

\*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

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<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.