

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Political Science**

**Political Science 3366E**  
***International Conflict Management***  
**2013-2014**

**1. Course Description**

International conflict is an ever-present part of the contemporary world. Whether conflict is between states or inside states, or whether it is between state and/or non-state actors, the affects and effects of international conflict are numerous. At the same time, there are always calls and demands to handle and solve – at a minimum, bound and limit – international conflicts and their deadly consequences – whether resulting through slow processes or swift actions. Thus, for millennia, the causes and sources of conflict, and the resulting measures or solutions suggested to resolve them, have been studied, analyzed, debated and re-evaluated. In contemporary times, while techniques such as diplomacy, invasion, war crimes tribunals, border patrols, and global governance, are used to grapple with international conflict, they not only provide a path for success and action, but also pose challenges and obstacles to management and solutions. Consequently, Term 1 of this course begins by delving into Conflict Studies. In the first half, we will analyze the study of the correlates and causes of conflict from the individual to the global levels, and their interconnections, management and remedies of conflict. In the second half, we will consider options, frameworks and methods for conflict management and – sometimes – resolution. From there, Term 2 turns to select case studies in order to ground our understanding, analysis, debate and critique in current and on-going global conflicts with a focus on select international conflict management techniques.

**2. Contact Information**

- Professor: **Nigmendra Narain**
  - Email: [nnarain@uwo.ca](mailto:nnarain@uwo.ca)
  - Office Room: SSC 4149
  - Office Phone: 519-661-2111, extension 85108
  - Cell-/text-phone: 519-860-3290 (preferred over office phone)
  - Office Hours: Wed 1pm–2pm; Thurs 2pm–3:30pm; and by appointment
- Note: No office hours are held in the first full week of classes in Term 1 and Term 2.*

**3. Class Time and Location**

- Time: Tuesday 2:30pm – 4:30 pm
- Location: Physics and Astronomy Building, Room 106

**4. Requisites and Anti-Requisites**

- “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.” – *Office of the Dean*
- Antirequisites: Politics 3366E and the former Politics 366E
- Prerequisites: Politics 2231E or the former Politics 231E or International Relations 2701E or the former International Relations 210E

- "Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, and does not have written special permission from his or her Dean to enroll in the course, the University reserves the right to cancel the student's registration in the course. [The University may also choose not to adjust your fees, such as not providing you a refund for the course.] This decision may not be appealed." (Western University Academic Calendar)

## 5. Course Materials and Syllabus

You are required to purchase two texts for this course, and both will be available from the Western Bookstore:

1. Jean-Francois Rioux & Vern Neufeld Redekop, *Introduction to Conflict Studies*, Oxford University Press, 2013
2. *International Conflict Management* from Pearson Custom Library Political Science, 2013, which includes access to PeerScholar, readings from Roselle & Spray's *Research and Writing in International Relations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Snow's *Cases in International Relations*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, and Stiles's *Case Histories in International Politics*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition.

<b>Term 1</b>		
<i>Sep 9 – Fall/Winter Term classes begin</i>		
1.	Sep 10	Introduction to the Course
<i>Sep 17 – Last day to add a full course or a first-term half-course</i>		
2.	Sep 17	<b>Details: Term 1 Essay Research Assignment</b>  <i>What is Conflict?</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 1, "What is Conflict"
3.	Sep 24	<b>Details: Term 1 Essay &amp; Peer Review Process</b>  <i>What is International Conflict?</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 4, "International Conflict"
4.	Oct 1	<i>Rational Causes of Conflict</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 5, "Is Conflict Behaviour Rational?"  <i>Biological Causes of Conflict</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 6, "Are Conflict Driven by Biological Needs"
5.	Oct 8	<b>Term 1 Essay Research Assignment DUE</b>  <i>Psychological Causes of Conflict</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 7, "The Psychology of Conflict"  <i>Social Causes of Conflict</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 8, "Conflict as Social Outcome?"
<i>Oct 14 – Holiday Monday</i>		

6.	Oct 15	<b>Late Term 1 Essay Research Assignment DUE (-10%)</b>  <i>Philosophical Causes of Conflict</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 9, "Recent Philosophical Approaches to Conflict"  <i>Behavioural Causes of Conflict</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 10, "How People Behave in Conflict"
7.	Oct 22	<i>Techniques for Conflict Resolution</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 11, "Processes for Dealing with Conflict"
Fri Oct 25		<b>Term 1 Essay for Peer Review Submission DUE (NO LATES allowed)</b>
8.	Oct 29	<i>Techniques for Violent Conflict Resolution</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 12, "The Prevention and Resolution of Violent Conflict"
9.	Nov 5	<i>Conflict Resolution through Reconciliation</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 13, "Reconciliation"  <i>Conflict Resolution through Justice</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 15, "What Role Does Justice Play"
10.	Nov 12	<i>Conflict Resolution through Ethical Means</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 14, "Conflict, Violence and Ethics"
		<i>Conflict Resolution through Peaceful Means</i> ➤ Rioux and Redekop, Chapter 16, "What is the Relationship between Conflict and Peace", 351-366
11.	Nov 19	<b>Term 1 Comments &amp; Suggestions on Essay for Peer Review Due (NO LATES allowed)</b>  <i>Mid-Year Exam Review</i>
12.	Nov 26	<b>MID-YEAR EXAM</b>
13.	Dec 3	<i>Special Lecture &amp; End of Term Party</i>
<i>Dec 6 – Fall Term classes end</i>		
Mon Dec 9		<b>Essay DUE &gt; my office, SSC 4149 by 4pm</b>
<i>Dec 8-19 – Mid-year examination period – NO DECEMBER EXAM</i>		
Mon Dec 16		<b>Late Essay DUE (-10%) &gt; my office, SSC 4149 by 4pm</b>
<i>Dec 20 – First Term ends</i>		

<b>Term 2</b>		
14.	Jan 7	<b>Details: Term 2 Essay Research Assignment</b>  <i>American Hegemony</i> ➤ 5 - Stiles, Chapter 2, "National Interest: September 11th and America's Role in the World" ➤ 6 - Stiles, Chapter 5, "Military Power: Persian Gulf Wars I and II"

15.	Jan 14	<b>Details: Term 2 Essay &amp; Peer Review</b>  <i>Balance of Power</i> ➤ 7 - Snow, Chapter 11, "Rising Powers: China and India" ➤ 8 - Stiles, Chapter 3, "Balance of Power: China-India-Pakistan Rivalry"
16.	Jan 21	<b>Term 2 Essay Research Assignment DUE</b> <i>Invasion</i> ➤ 9 - Snow, Chapter 1, "Sovereignty: The Legality and Impact of Invading Iraq" ➤ 10 - Snow, Chapter 5, "Asymmetrical Warfare: The Case of Afghanistan"
17.	Jan 28	<b>Late Term 2 Essay Research Assignment DUE (-10%)</b>  <i>Diplomacy</i> ➤ Snow, Chapter 4, "Irresolvable Conflicts: The Israeli-Palestinian Impasse" ➤ Stiles, Chapter 11, "Nationalism: The Conflict in the Caucasus"
18.	Feb 4	<i>Preventing Nuclear Proliferation</i> ➤ Snow, Chapter 6, "Proliferation: The Case of North Korea" ➤ Snow, Chapter 7, "Pivotal States: Confronting and Accommodating Iran"
19.	Feb 11	<i>Intervention</i> ➤ Stiles, Chapter 6, "Intervention: Bosnia"
Fri Feb 14		<b>Term 2 Essay Peer Review Submission DUE (NO LATES allowed)</b>
20.	Feb 25	<i>Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding &amp; Peace-enforcement</i> ➤ Snow, Chapter 8, "Peacekeeping: Humanitarian Disaster and International Responses in Darfur" ➤ Stiles, Chapter 4, "Alliances: The Post-Cold War Role of NATO"
21.	Mar 4	<i>International Cooperation: Limiting War</i> ➤ Snow, Chapter 3, "Limits on International Cooperation: War Crimes, the International Criminal Court, and Torture" ➤ Stiles, Chapter 19, "International Law: The International Criminal Court"
Mon Mar 10		<b>Term 2 Comments &amp; Suggestions on Essay for Peer Review (NO LATES allowed)</b>
22.	Mar 11	<i>Information Technology &amp; Social Media</i> ➤ Stiles, Chapter 18, "The Information Age: Rebellion in the Arab World"
23.	Mar 18	<i>Immigration and Refugee Movements</i> ➤ Snow, Chapter 14, "International Migration: The U.S. Mexican Border"
Fri Mar 21		<b>Term 2 Essay DUE</b>
24.	Mar 25	<i>Human Security</i> ➤ Stiles, Chapter 15, "Failed and Failing States: The Case of Pakistan" ➤ Stiles, Chapter 8, "Human Security: The HIV/AIDs Pandemic"
Fri Mar 28		<b>Late Term 2 Essay DUE (-10%)</b>
25.	Apr 1	<i>Resource Conflict</i> ➤ Snow, Chapter 2, "Resource Scarcity: Oil, The Lubricant That Corrodes"
26.	Apr 8	Exam Review and Class Party
<i>Apr 8 – Winter Term classes end &amp; Apr 9-10 – Study Days</i>		

## 6. Evaluation Components and Dates

Course	Assignment	Components		Date
50%	Essays	Term 1 Essay Research Assignment	5%	Tues Oct 8
		Term 1 Essay Peer Review Submission	2%	Fri Oct 25
		Term 1 Comments & Suggestions on Essays for Peer Review	2%	Tues Nov 19
		Term 1 Essay	15%	Mon Dec 9
		Term 1 Essay Research Assignment	5%	Tues Jan 21
		Term 2 Essay Peer Review Submission	2%	Fri Feb 14
		Term 2 Comments & Suggestions on Essays for Peer Review	4%	Mon Mar 10
		Term 2 Essay	15%	Fri Mar 21
45%	Exams	Reading Quizzes	5%	Irregular
		Mid-Year Exam	20%	Tues Nov 28
		Final Exam	20%	April
5%	Attendance	Weekly Attendance Sheet	—	Weekly
100%	Total			

### Notes:

- *NO exam in December*
- Maximum grade on any particular assignment or particular assessment or for the whole course is 100%
- Minimum grade on any particular assignment or particular assessment or for the whole course is 0%
- If you are an International Student, note that all grades are assessed using Canadian University standards
- If warranted due to serious/global/whole issues, the Term 1 Essay grade will be entered for some or all of the Term 1 Essay Sources & Works Cited Assignment, Term 1 Essay Peer Review Submission and/or Term 1 Essay Peer Review Comments & Suggestions those assignments
- If warranted due to serious/global/whole issues, the Term 2 Essay grade will be entered for some or all of the Term 2 Essay Sources & Works Cited Assignment, Term 2 Essay Peer Review Submission and/or Term 2 Essay Peer Review Comments & Suggestions those assignments
- If warranted due to serious/global/whole issues concerning the Reading Quizzes assignment, then an average of the Mid-Year Exam and Final Exam grade will be entered for the Reading Quizzes assignment

## 7. Assignments' Descriptions and Learning Outcomes

Assignments	Description	Learning Outcomes
Essay Research Assignment	Assignment to develop Information Literacy Skills: research; source-identification, verification & prioritization; understand how to compile, write and format a proper Works Cited; learn how to select sources for annotation and how to annotate correctly, e.g. CRAAP criteria	Organizational skills that contribute to scholarly and personal independence; well-developed research skills, such as those articulated by the <a href="#">Political Science Research Competency Guidelines adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries</a> )
Essay Peer Review Submission	Submission of a penultimate draft for comments & feedback from your class colleagues; please try to make your essay as complete as possible; <i>DO NOT put your name on anything other than a separate cover page</i>	Communicate in written format in an analytic and clear fashion; appreciate the necessity of ongoing scholarly and professional development

Essay Peer Review Comments & Feedback	Comment & feedback on selected 2-3 colleagues; please provide <i>constructive, specific and helpful advice</i> , thanks	Work effectively with others, including resolving conflict; appreciate the necessity of ongoing scholarly and professional development; recognize the importance of listening
Mid-Year Exam	Mix of multiple-choice, match-ups and/or identifiers on causes of conflict and techniques of conflict resolution covered in Lectures 2-10; 2-hours; in-class	Knowledge of diverse theories and approaches; understanding of methods; knowledge of epistemological approaches and ontological diversity; exposure to qualitative and quantitative methods
Essay	3000-4000 words (10-15 pages); Arial 12pt font; Works Cited using at least 8 sources; Term 1 essay: sources of a conflict between 1945-1990; Term 2 essay: conflict management techniques in a conflict between 1990-present, including literature review	Communicate in written format in an analytic and clear fashion; communicate in written format in an analytic and clear fashion; situate knowledge historically and contextually; assess evidence critically; well-developed research skills
Final Exam	Two essay-length questions based on the case studies analyzed in Term 2; exam questions and specific readings will be provided at in advance of exam	Communicate in written format in an analytic and clear fashion; situate knowledge historically and contextually; assess evidence critically; ethical dimensions of problem identification and methodology; how power, culture and history condition knowledge formation; understand the ambiguity, uncertainty, ubiquitous and controversial nature of politics
Reading Quizzes	Timed-quizzes on the OWL site based on the readings in preparation or follow-up for lectures, and in preparation for exams; only 80% of all quizzes posted for the year will be used for the assessed grade	Awareness of the extent and limits of one's own knowledge, informed by exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience; appreciate the necessity of ongoing scholarly and professional development
Class Attendance	Attendance in 22 out of 25 classes (attended classes/22), i.e. excluding Mid-Year Exam attendance; <i>also</i> , regular, constructive participation through various in-class and other opportunities to facilitate and encourage your engagement	Recognize the importance of listening; Communicate verbally in an analytic and clear fashion; an awareness of the extent and limits of one's own knowledge, informed by exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience

### **Essay Questions:**

- Term 1: Pick a global conflict or conflict with global significance between 1945-1990, and address the following question: What would you identify as the two main causes of the conflict, and of those two, which one was the key cause of the conflict and why?
- Term 2: Pick a global conflict or conflict with global significance between 1991-present, and address the following question: After presenting a literature review of the conflict management techniques used in the conflict, which one technique would argue was the most effective conflict management technique and why?

Note:

- Please check with me that your essay topic is acceptable for this course

- In each Term, your Essay Research Assignment, your Peer Review Essay, and your Essay *must be on the same conflict* and *you may not change the conflict* (if you do so, you will be assigned a zero/0 on the relevant assignments), so choose your conflict carefully and with consideration to your interests

## **8. Course Communication**

- You will be automatically added to the class OWL website
- Email will be used regularly and extensively to communicate about this course, so **please use & check your UWO email for course-related emails regularly**

## **9. General Course Rules**

- More details will be posted on the OWL site
- Read the Course Outline fully and *do ask questions – your friends and colleagues have the same questions and need the answers, too!*
- Conduct yourself appropriately in lectures
  - Be courteous; act responsibly; refrain from talking; avoid activities that disrupt or distract fellow students
  - You may be asked kindly to leave if you are being disruptive to the proper functioning of the class
  - You are required to conduct yourself according to the University of Western Ontario Student Code of Conduct, which can be accessed as a PDF from: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>.
- Any Assignment assessed by the Lecturer to be in **flagrant, repeated and/or egregious violation** of the rules, guidelines, etc., may have a **special penalty assessed or assigned a grade of Zero/0**
- Submission instructions for assignments will be posted on the OWL site
- Essays
  - “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. Please refer to Scholastic Discipline under the Senate Policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>” (university regulation)
  - Turnitin & the Essay:
    - Within two weeks of the Essay Due Date, an *identical electronic copy of your essay* MUST be submitted using the Turnitin link on our OWL site
    - Your electronic copy must be the same as your hard copy, and both copies will be checked against each other – *submitting two different versions of the essay may result in a penalty or a zero* being assigned to the essay at the Course Lecturer’s discretion
    - Any attempt to submit a copy of your essay that is different from the printed copy you have submitted may result in a 0/zero being assigned to the essay. *Any essay not submitted to Turnitin.com will have a grade of zero assigned to it until the electronic copy is submitted to Turnitin.com; once submitted and checked, the actual essay grade received will replace the zero (assuming no further problems or grade deductions)*
    - If any of your essays and/or any assignments you submit for this course are shown to be plagiarized, your grade for the assignments and/or essays, and this course, and any other punitive measures, may be determined by the Department of Political Science and other relevant administrative personnel in accordance with appropriate University procedures
  - May be marked by TAs under my supervision
  - Extensions
    - When you have genuine and unavoidable reasons for requesting an extension of the original or late essay deadlines, please see me **immediately and provide all relevant documentation**
    - Try to request your extension at least one week in advance of the Essay Due Date
    - You **MUST** provide documentation to support your request for an extension to your Dean’s Office or Academic Counseling office so that they can verify/vet your documentation and let me know what accommodation should be considered
    - In many cases, you will be sent to an Academic Counseling office so that they can verify/vet your documentation and let me know what accommodation should be considered
    - Although Academic Counseling will *advise* me about accommodation, I will make the final decision about due dates, re-weighting, transfer weighting, etc., in consultation with you and your counselor
    - An **Authorization Email** will be sent by me to you to confirm your extension and the date for your assignment to be submitted
    - You **MUST** submit your Essay **WITH** the Authorization Email attached
  - Lost Assignments

- It is the responsibility of each student to retain hard and electronic copies of his/her assignments
- Student must provide a replacement copy for grading when contacted by me
- "Computer trouble" or other electronic issue will not normally be accepted as grounds for an extension
- Re-Evaluation
  - You are **not** allowed to re-write assignments once they have been handed-in for marking under normal circumstances
  - If you submit the "wrong version" of an assignment, contact me immediately, *but note* you are **not** entitled to submit the "right version"
- Non-Medical and Medical Absences
  - Please see the Student Service website (<http://www.studentservices.uwo.ca>) for the *Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness* and *Student Medical Certificate*
  - Any medical absence **should be** documented using the *Student Medical Certificate* or as instructed by Student Services, Dean's Office or your Academic Counselor
  - If you have medical or other documentation, you **must** take it to the Dean's Office or Academic Counselor, who will then confirm granting you accommodation
  - Although Academic Counseling will *advise* me about accommodation, I will make the final decision about due dates, re-weighting, transfer weighting, etc., in consultation with your Academic Counselor and you
  - For work *worth less than 10%* (as per *Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness*): non-documentable absences will not be given accommodation because allowances have been already included for incidental absences
  - If I am unable to grant you fair and reasonable accommodation in my assessment, the *whole percentage weight* for that assignment may be added to the value of the exam for that term
- Conditions for Passing the Course
  - To receive an earned grade of 50% or higher in this class, you must: 1) submit the Term 1 essay and the Term 2 essay, AND 2) you must write the Mid-Year and Final exams; submission beyond the submission and/or late submission deadline will be assessed a penalty of -25%
  - Completion of the essays and exams is a necessary, but is not a sufficient condition for passing this course
  - If you do not submit one of the essays or if you do not write any one of the exams, then you will be *assigned* a grade of 48% or the grade you have earned for the course, *whichever is the lower of the two, as your grade for the course*
  - You are not required to pass any of the assignments
  - If you fail to meet the requirements for the essays and exams listed above, please see me immediately

#### **10. Concern about grades**

- Email me for an appointment or drop by during office hours
- Re-evaluated assignments' grades *may increase or decrease*

#### **11. Changes to Course Outline**

- Due to certain circumstances and/or situations, changes to this course outline and other course documents are necessary
- In such cases, you will be informed through all available channels of communication as soon as possible

*Enjoy the class and  
have a great year!*

**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.

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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**

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.