Political Science 4403F Course Outline

1. Course Information

Course Information
War on Terror, POLS 4403G; undergraduate winter term; in-person on Monday, 2:30-4:20PM in Social Science Centre room 7210; OWL course website

Prerequisites
Political Science 2237E or Political Science 2537F/G.

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.

2. Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Nandita, Biswas Mellamphy	nbiswas[at]uwo.ca or mohuya[at]protonmail.com (either one is fine and both are unnecessary since I check both).	Social Science Bldg., Room 7316	519-661-2111 Ext. 81161	Mon 1:30-2:20PM, or schedule appointment.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Course Description:

What happens when war and militarization extend out of the space of the battlefield and become integrated into the civilian space of everyday life? Just as we have witnessed the global integration of information, communication, and trade which are no longer confined by territorial boundaries, so too can 'war' be seen as no longer confined to its classic theatre of operation, the battlefield. Today, in combination with the technological and informational revolutions characteristic of the 21st century, the governance of terror in the name of security has effectively led to the tactical and indefinite extension of war into all spheres of life.

The War on Terror, which began as a specifically American military doctrine, became a global-scale war on terrorism that has set the stage for global counter-terrorist mass- and micro-

surveillance systems in the 21st century. This course explores the War on Terror, the political theory of fear, and the consequences of global counter-terrorism surveillance systems on the erosion of civil liberties.

The course material draws from a growing international field of scholarship that researches the problematization of politics, security and war from the perspectives of critical security studies, political theory, surveillance studies, and communication studies.

Please note that this is a heavily theoretical course that draws on empirical materials. For those who would like some background reading on International Relations theories, please consult: *Critical Approaches to International Security* by K.M. Fierke and/or *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction* by Cynthia Weber (these books have **not** been ordered at the Bookstore).

Weekly Course Topics include:
- Critical approaches to War on Terror
- Security and Insecurity
- War on Terror Narratives and the Politics of Fear
- Gendered Narratives of War on Terror
- States of exception and Asymmetric warfare
- Predation and Drone Warfare
- Social Media and Hybrid Warfare
- Biometrics and Surveillance
- Legislation, Policy, and Dissent
- Digital Warfare

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of diverse theories and methodological approaches in political science and recognize the ethical dimensions and problems of methodologies.

- Demonstrate an awareness of how power, culture and history condition/influence knowledge formation and be able to situate knowledge historically and contextually.

- Demonstrate understanding of the controversial nature of politics and recognize the limits of your own political knowledge, in light of exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience.

- Demonstrate well developed, independent information literacy and research skills and be able to identify goals for their own professional development and further learning.

- Work effectively with others, demonstrating the skills of giving constructive and critical feedback to peers, responding to feedback, and using active listening.

Delivery:

This course has been designed to give you a holistic educational experience that combines various instructional methods:

- in-person/in-class active learning (i.e., discussions, debates, and structured in-class exercises),
- knowledge transmission (i.e., mini in-class lectures, reading academic works, multi-media viewing/listening)
- student communication activities (i.e., reflective writing, and oral presentations)

This is an <u>in-person course</u> with 3 mandatory components:

1-**Weekly in-class component: Attendance and participation** at **in-person seminar** on Monday from 2:30pm-4:20pm. Attendance will be taken in class and no alternate assignments can be substituted for this component because the whole point is to have the opportunity for active in-class learning, discussions and debates. Class attendance and participation are important for meeting the class objectives. If you cannot make it to class (e.g. due to an emergency), make sure you have the contact information of a couple of **'note-buddies'** in the class with whom you can trade notes when necessary. Next time you are in class, just introduce yourself to the person sitting next to you and exchange email addresses so that you have a class contact. Remember, **notes will NOT be provided by the instructor**, so it is your responsibility to get notes from your note-buddy if you miss class.

Think Labs

Each class will begin with a 10 minute mini-lecture by me, followed by what I call a 'Think Lab' which is a structured and guided round-table session that participants can prepare for in advance. For the first round, we will go around the table analyzing the weekly assigned readings picking out important points, themes, arguments and debates. Each round-table participant will get 2 minutes (timed) to identify key points and terms, as well as summarize their takeaways from the assigned readings. Participants are expected to take good notes while the first round. At the end of the first round, participants will be given 10 minutes to synthesize their notes from the first round table, after which we will have another roundtable session in which each participant will get 1 min (timed) to respond to points made by their peers from the last round table. Finally, the last 30 minutes will be devoted to writing an individual in-class essay based on a question posed by the instructor. Students should bring their laptops to class so that they can type their essay using the course OWL website.

2- **Weekly out-of-class component:** During the week, you will be expected to go to the course website to access the weekly assigned readings schedule and content. Be sure to take good notes

because they will help inform your in-class participation and discussion. You can prepare ahead for the weekly Think lab roundtables.

3- **Scheduled Assignments:** In addition, there are two scheduled assignments that are to be submitted through the course OWL website's 'Assignments' link (no print copies required):

- *Research Project: Create a Literature Review*= 30%; pick ONE of the course weekly themes and create a typed literature review that includes the assigned readings for that week and a minimum of 7 other relevant and established scholarly sources. Due no later than Feb. 29, 2024. For more information how to create a literature review, go the course website's Assignment link.
- *Comparative Critical Book Review (of 3 course texts)*= 30% Due March 29, 2024. For more information, go the course website's Assignment link.

Schedule of Weekly Topics

Week 1/Jan 8	911 and the War on Terror: Introduction to course participants, outline, themes, and mechanics
Week 2/Jan 15	The Challenges of Conceptualizing the 'Global War on Terror': Critical Theories and Approaches
Week 3/Jan 22	The War on Terror and (In)Security: The United States and Canada
Week 4/Jan 29	War on Terror Narratives: War on Terror and the Politics of Fear
Week 5/Feb 5	Gendered Narratives of War on Terror
Week 6/Feb 12	Who is Friend and Who is Enemy? From Symmetrical to Asymmetrical War
Week 7/Feb 19	Reading Week; no class.
Week 8/Feb 26	Predation and Drone Warfare
Week 9/Mar 4	Social Media and Hybrid Warfare
Week 10/Mar 11	Surveillance and Biometrics
Week 11/Mar 18	Gender, Race and Biometric Surveillance
Week 12/Mar 25	Liberty and/or Security? Legislating Anti-Terrorism and Criminalizing Dissent
Week 13/Apr 1	Digital War and Course Wrap-up

Relevant Key Sessional Dates for this course
- Winter session resumes January 8, 2024.
- Last day to drop: January 16, 2024; Courses dropped by this date will not appear on a transcript; no fee penalty. Courses dropped after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'WDN' withdrawn, without academic penalty
- Winter Reading Week: February 17-25, 2024; no class.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning
In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely

online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

4. Course Materials

Course Materials, Required Textbooks, OWL website

False Security: The Radicalization of Canadian Anti-Terrorism by Craig Forcese and Kent Roach, Irwin Law Inc.

America's War on Terror: The State of the 9/11 Exception from Bush to Obama by Jason Ralph, Oxford University Press.

Taking Liberties: The War on Terror and the Erosion of American Democracy by Susan N. Herman, Oxford University Press.

The Bookstore will order the newest available edition, but older editions are acceptable. Other articles may be assigned to accompany your reading of the primary texts. All articles not found in the course textbooks are available on the course website (OWL).

All course material will be posted to OWL: http://owl.uwo.ca. Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (http://owl.uwo.ca) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Technical Requirements
A functional computer with a wireless internet connection are required to bring to class and to complete the online component of some of the assignments. If you have concerns about this requirements, please contact the instructor immediately to discuss.

5. Methods of Evaluation

- Seminar (Think Lab) Participation= 10 classes x 2% ea=20% (based on making one 2m. oral presentation on takeaways from the readings and one 1m of peer feedback).

- In-class essay every class= 10 classes x 2% ea= 20%

- Research Project: Create a Literature Review= 30%; pick ONE of the course weekly themes and create a typed literature review that include the assigned readings for that week and a minimum of 7 other relevant and established scholarly sources. Due Feb. 29, 2024

- Comparative Critical Book Review (of 3 course texts)= 30% due March 29, 2024.

You cannot opt out of any of the assignments to pass the course; all are necessary to fulfill the course requirements. You will not be penalized for failing to meet a requirement due to circumstances beyond your control.

Submit all your assignments by the deadline to avoid any grade deductions. Give yourself lots of time to tackle each assignment so that you can submit by the deadline. Contact your TA early to get help and/or feedback about your assignment.

Absences & Academic Consideration

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html

We all know that short-term absences can occur because all students must contend with ailments, varying demands, and the pressures of everyday life. Missing an occasional class/lecture/quiz will not have a significant impact on your academics as a whole, and for the most part, you are able to catch up without incident. Part of being a student means learning to cope with and manage these ailments, demands, and pressures – all of which are reasonably expected to surface during the school year.

What will **not** qualify for academic consideration:
https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/exams/index.html#No_AC

- Sleeping in
- Misreading the timetable
- Flight arrangements
- Moving

Professors are not required to set a special examination and requests of this nature will be denied. Students are expected to schedule their personal business such as changing residence, vacations and flights so that these activities do not conflict with the exam schedule.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade
There are no alternate assignments for missed classes (unless you have documentation proving that you had an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency/accident preventing you from attending the class in which case, the instructor may decide upon an alternate assignment; you must contact the instructor and provide your documentation as soon as possible).

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:
For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as

soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

   https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

   https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Note: missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. You should check the Western website to see what directives for COVID are to be followed. Western University has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

7. Accommodation and Accessibility

Religious Accommodation
When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

   https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo.

Accommodation Policies
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

   https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic
   Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

8. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is http://www.registrar.uwo.ca.

In accordance with policy,

   https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-

mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Policy on Using AI Tools in this Course
Using AI tools can be useful for some disciplines. But for this course, AI tools can be more harmful and unreliable than useful for research. For instance, tools like chatGPT often fail to cite correctly, adequately, or reliably. For these reasons, The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) *are not permitted* in this class; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of the University of Western Ontario's Academic Misconduct which may constitute a Scholastic Offence. The use of unauthorized AI tools can result in: a failure to receive full grades, the need to resubmit the assignment, need to orally present the assignment in office hours, or a failure to complete the requirements of the course.

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university. The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously (even when these are unintended because you should know when you are doing it).

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:
On tests and exams:
•   Using or possessing unauthorized aids
•   Communicating with someone else during an exam or test
•   Misrepresenting your identity when you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.
In academic work:
•   Falsifying institutional documents or grades
•   Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes when you knew or ought to have known you were doing so.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

All required essays are 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).

9. Support Services

Academic Counselling
Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: Academic Counselling - Western University (uwo.ca)

Accessible Education
For issues of accessibility contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

If you have any questions regarding academic accommodations, contact (http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/academic_accomodation.html)

Health and Safety
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (https://uwo.ca/health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Success Centre
Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (https://learning.uwo.ca) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

University Student Council
Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, https://westernusc.ca/services/.

I hope you enjoy the course and wish you every success in completing it!

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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations
EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Note: Missed work can _only_ be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

Accommodation and Accessibility

Religious Accommodation
When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the

Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo.

AccommodationPolicies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is http://www.registrar.uwo.ca.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

During exams/tests/quizzes, no electronic devices (e.g. a phone, laptop, iPad) are allowed and must be powered down and stored out of reach.

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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

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).

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

If a course uses remote proctoring, please be advised that you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including

some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of a course with remote proctoring will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca.

Support Services

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: Academic Counselling - Western University (uwo.ca)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (https://uwo.ca/health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (https://learning.uwo.ca) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, https://westernusc.ca/services/.

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. https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html

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 hasexpounded 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 outsideyour 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 thisdistinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission asintentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in acourse 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