

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
POLITICS 2231E-650
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SUMMER 2020 (DISTANCE ONLINE)

Dr. R. VandeWetering

Lectures: available by Tuesday at noon (but normally on the weekend)

E-mail: Please check your UWO e-mail account for periodic messages. My e-mail address is rvandewe@uwo.ca. When you e-mail me, put in the subject heading "2231-your last name". This will help prevent your message being deleted as spam.

E-mail is the best way to contact me. You may visit me at my office SSC 4143 or phone me at (519) 661-2111, ext. 85177. Please email me to arrange a time to meet or talk. For a number of weeks I will be out of the city and will only be able to be in contact by email.

Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites: *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.*

Prerequisites: Politics 1020E

Antirequisites: Pol 2131 or 2131E or International Relations 2701E

Course Description

Students will be introduced to the systematic study of international relations. We will first learn the main theoretical approaches used for describing international relations, and then examine specific actors and issues.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should a) be able to describe and evaluate the main theoretical approaches used for describing international relations;
b) be able to apply these theoretical approaches to specific actors and issues; and
c) improve their writing skills.

Required Textbook

Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, eds. The Globalization of World Politics (8th ed). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Evaluation

Essay One	20%	due June 7 by 11:55 PM at OWL
Essay Two	25%	due July 5 by 11:55 PM at OWL
Geopolitical Questions	20%	
Final Exam	35%	during final exam period Aug 4-7

Essays: minimum 2500 words (not including bibliography or footnotes), maximum 3000; typed; double-spaced; you must keep a copy for yourself and you must keep your notes and rough drafts; if you make a reference to or quote from a source on the internet, you must give me an exact reference so that I can find it. Include page numbers with every non-internet reference. Include a title page with the title, the essay question number, your name, and your email address—please do not put your name on the inside of the

essay (e.g. headers). Submit an electronic copy at OWL by 11:55 PM on the due date. Watch VandeWeteringEssayLecture (OWL under Lectures/Lessons) for tips about writing essays for Prof VandeWetering. **Late essays:** Extensions will only be granted in exceptional—and properly documented—medical circumstances, and by prior arrangement with instructor. Computer problems do not qualify as an excuse: prepare your essay assuming that you will have problems with your hard drive. Late papers will be penalized **10% per day**, including weekends. **Please note that one minute late = late.** Social science students should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> if you have a problem.

Self-reporting: for both essays and geopolitical questions, if you self-report, your essay or geopolitical question submission will then be due 48 hours after the exact time it was due. If you need more time than this, then you will have to obtain a note from an academic counsellor.

Essays: For each essay students will examine an issue from the point of view of a theorist. Please note that you may not use the same “school” for each essay; for example, if you use Held on the first essay you may not use another Liberal on your second essay.

Realist:

Morgenthau, Hans. Politics Among Nations. (the 5th edition or later) New York: Knopf, 1948.
Waltz, Kenneth. Theory of International Politics. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 1979.

Liberal:

Held, David. Democracy and the Global Order. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1995.
Keohane, Robert O. and Joseph S. Nye Jr.. Power and Interdependence. (Either 3rd or 4th edition)
Boston: Longman: 2012.

World Systems Theory: note—you must read all three pieces:

Wallerstein, Immanuel. World-systems Analysis. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004. PLUS
Wallerstein, Immanuel. The Decline of American Power. New York: New Press, 2003 PLUS from the
Resources file: 2231HobdenandJones

1st Essay Topics: due June 7 by 11:55 PM at OWL

1. “Micro-states are good for the international political system.” How would one Liberal theorist reply to this statement?
2. “Unipolarity is preferable to multipolarity.” How would one Realist theorist reply to this statement? (This is a theoretical essay, not an historical essay: focus on ‘rules’ and the ‘logic’ of the system; consider how the system copes with change.)
3. “Religion only causes problems in international relations.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?
4. “Nationalism can contribute to world peace.” Use one theorist to make an argument for the benefits of nationalism.(Note: this should not turn into an essay on how nationalism is an obstacle to peace. Your theorist may dislike nationalism overall, but your essay should focus on its possible benefits.)

2nd Essay Topics: due July 5 by 11:55 PM at OWL

1. “The U.N. creates long-term stability.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?
2. “From the point of view of a developing country, the World Bank is a beneficial organization.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?
3. “The expansion of N.A.T.O. weakens the alliance.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?
4. “The I.C.C. is a useful organization.” How would one theorist reply to this statement?

Geopolitical Questions: 20% of final mark. There will be five scenarios worth 4% each. You will be required to provide a “Realist Top Five Point Strategy” with an explanation of each of the five points. You will have to justify why the points are ordered as they are. The strategy will be 500 words. For an example of a “Realist Top Five Point Strategy” see Lecture Two regarding the Geopolitics of Iran. Please see the sheet after the bibliography of this outline for more detailed instructions. Your answers must be typed. You will send your submission to me via email at rvandewe@uwo.ca by **11:55 PM** on the specified dates with the specified title in the subject line. These will be graded out of 100. Late submissions will be penalized 10% per day; **please note that one minute late = late.**

Final: 3 hours. 75 mc question worth 75 marks; 3 essay questions each worth 75 marks. The essay answers must be in essay format (intro, thesis, conc); there will be a choice of essay questions.

Readings: most are in Baylis; the rest are available at OWL.

Lectures: will be available at OWL on Tuesdays by noon (but normally by the weekend). The lectures are the intellectual property of Richard VandeWetering. You may not be copy them or re-broadcast them in any medium.

Lecture Schedule

Note: B = Baylis

WEEK ONE: MAY 4

1. INTRODUCTION
2. REALISM
3. CRITICISMS OF REALISM
4. GEOPOLITICS

The first lecture will be available at OWL on MAY 2ND.

Readings: B 131-43, 248-52; 2231Morgenthau; 2231Waltz; 2231SmithandOwens

WEEK TWO: MAY 10

1. GEOPOLITICS OF IRAN
2. LIBERALISM
3. WORLD SYSTEMS THEORY
4. ALTERNATIVES

Readings: 2231Iranmap; 2231Dunne; 2231KeohaneandNye1; 2231KeohaneandNye2; 2231Slaughter; 2231HobdenandJones; B 122-5, 195-204.

WEEK THREE: MAY 17

1. LEVELS OF ANALYSIS
2. HISTORY OF WORLD POLITICS: THE STATE 1648-2000
3. WRITING AN ESSAY FOR PROFESSOR VANDEWETERING

Readings: 2231RourkeandBoyer; 2231KeckandSikkink; B 40-82

Watch: “VandeWeteringEssayLecture” at OWL

Geopolitical Topic #1 due May 19 at 11:55 PM: Turkey: send email with subject heading “Turkey–your name”

WEEK FOUR: MAY 24

1. THE 21ST CENTURY: NATIONALISM OR TRANSNATIONALISM?
2. CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS

Readings: B 85-97, 482-96; 2231Barber; 2231Huntington

Geopolitical Topic #2 due May 26 at 11:55 PM: Japan: send email with subject heading “Japan–your name”

WEEK FIVE: MAY 31

1. POWER

2. IS CANADA POWERFUL?

Readings: 2231Nye

ESSAY DUE SUNDAY JUNE 7TH AT 11:55 PM

WEEK SIX: JUNE 7

1. DIPLOMACY

2. SECURITY

Readings: B 241-7, 226-38, 140-1; 2231Butler; 2231Mueller; 2231Luttwak

WEEK SEVEN: JUNE 14

1. NUCLEAR SECURITY

2. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS: I.P.E.

Readings: B 467-79, 257-69, 20-33; 2231Krasner; 2231WaltzIran

Geopolitical Topic #3 due June 16 at 11:55 PM: Nigeria: send email with subject heading "Nigeria-your name"

WEEK EIGHT: JUNE 21

1. I.P.E.: DEVELOPMENT

2. I.P.E.: MNCs

3. I.P.E.: FOREIGN AID AND DEBT

Readings: B 420-31; 2231Gilpin

Geopolitical Topic #4 due June 23 at 11:55 PM: Panama: send email with subject heading "Panama-your name"

WEEK NINE: JUNE 28

1. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2. INTERNATIONAL LAW: INTRODUCTION

Readings: B 388-402, 304-17; Earth Negotiations Bulletin

(<https://enb.iisd.org/download/pdf/enb12776e.pdf>);

Note: please go to one of these websites and calculate your carbon footprint:

www.footprintcalculator.org

www.ecologicalfootprint.com ('click' that you live in the U.K.)

ESSAY DUE SUNDAY JULY 5TH AT 11:55 PM

WEEK TEN: JULY 5

1. INTERNATIONAL LAW: LEGISLATIVE

2. INTERNATIONAL LAW: EXECUTIVE

3. INTERNATIONAL LAW: JUDICIARY

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

Readings: B 515-28

WEEK ELEVEN: JULY 12

1. HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN POLICY

2. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

3. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: U.N.

Readings: 2231MatthewsandPratt; B 320-31, 335-47, 350-63; 2231Kaplan

Geopolitical Topic #5 due July 14 at 11:55 PM: United States: send email with subject heading "United States-your name"

WEEK TWELVE: JULY 19

1. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: E.U.

2. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS

3. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: TERRORISM

Readings: B 366-380, 440-7, 450-63; 2231Held

FINAL EXAM: IN EXAM PERIOD AUGUST 4TH TO 7TH

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Amstutz, Mark R. International Conflict and Cooperation (2nd ed). New York: McGraw-Hill, 1999.

Anderson, Ewan W. and Liam D. Anderson. Strategic Minerals. Chichester, U.K.: Wiley, 1998.

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Ardrey, Robert. The Territorial Imperative. New York: Delta, 1966.

Axworthy, Lloyd. "Canada and Human Security" in International Journal (Vol. 52, No. 2, Spring, 1997), pp. 183-96.

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Barber, Benjamin. "Jihad vs. McWorld" in The Atlantic Monthly (Vol 269, No 3, March 1992). pp. 53-63.

Barracough, Geoffrey. An Introduction to Contemporary History. Harmondsworth, U.K.: Penguin, 1967.

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Buehr, Peter R. and Leon Gordenker. The United Nations in the 1990s (2nd ed.). New York: St. Martins, n.d..

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Clark, Eric. Corps Diplomatique. London: Allen Lane, 1973.

Claude, Inis L. Swords into Ploughshares (4th ed.). New York: Random House, 1971.

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Cohen, David. "Earth audit" in The New Scientist (Vol 194, No 2605, May 26, 2007). London: 2007. pp. 34-41.

Cohen, Stephen P. "U.S. Security in a Separatist Season" in Toward the Twenty-First Century, eds. Glenn Hastedt and Kay Knickrehm. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1994. pp. 431-8.

Cole, J.P. and Francis Cole. The Geography of the European Union (2nd ed.). New York: Routledge, 1997.

Cole, John. Global 2050: A Basis for Speculation. Nottingham, U.K.: Nottingham University Press, 1999.

Cortright, David and George A. Lopez. "Introduction: Assessing Smart Sanctions: Lessons from the 1990s" in Smart Sanctions, eds. David Cortright and George A. Lopez. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002.

Cowley, Robert, ed. What If? Military Historians Imagine What Might Have Been. London: Pan Books, 1999.

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Der Derian, James. Virtuous War. Boulder, U.S.: Westview, 2001.

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Zilio, Michelle. "Ottawa Landlord chides diplomat renters" in The Globe and Mail (January 30, 2018), p. A7.

GEOPOLITICAL ASSIGNMENTS

20% of final mark. There will be five scenarios worth 4% each. You will be required to provide a "Realist Top Five Point Strategy" with an explanation of each of the five points. You will have to justify why the points are ordered as they are. The strategy will be 500 words. For an example of a "Realist Top Five Point Strategy" see Lecture Two regarding the Geopolitics of Iran. Your answers will be typed. You will send your submission to me via email at rvandewe@uwo.ca by **11:55 PM** on the specified dates with the specified title in the subject line. These will be graded out of 100. Late submissions will be penalized 10% per day; **please note that one minute late = late.**

Process:

1. Print up a map of the region or continent in which the state is located. This will help you to visualize the state's situation. Adding information from steps 3 and 5 on this sheet will also help you.

2. Read the state article in the Europa World Plus:

*available at UWO libraries: under databases: <https://www.europaworld-com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/welcome?authstatuscode=202>

3. Find population statistics for neighboring and relevant states in the Europa World Plus database:

*available at UWO libraries: under databases: <https://www.europaworld-com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/comparative-statistics/population/out=>

4. Read the state article in the The Military Balance:

*available at UWO libraries: Institute for Strategic Studies. The Military Balance 2020. London: 2020.
available at UWO libraries): https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01OCUL_UWO:UWO_DEFAULT&tab=Everything&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&displayMode=full&bulkSize=10&highlight=true&dum=true&query=any,contains,military%20balance&displayField=all&pcAvailabilityMode=true

5. Find military statistics for neighboring and relevant states: The Military Balance pp. 529-34

*available at UWO libraries: Institute for Strategic Studies. The Military Balance 2020. London: 2020.
[https://ocul-](https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01OCUL_UWO:UWO_DEFAULT&tab=Everything&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&displayMode=full&bulkSize=10&highlight=true&dum=true&query=any,contains,military%20balance&displayField=all&pcAvailabilityMode=true)

[uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01OCUL_UWO:UWO_DEFAULT&tab=Everything&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&displayMode=full&bulkSize=10&highlight=true&dum=true&query=any,contains,military%20balance&displayField=all&pcAvailabilityMode=true](https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01OCUL_UWO:UWO_DEFAULT&tab=Everything&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&displayMode=full&bulkSize=10&highlight=true&dum=true&query=any,contains,military%20balance&displayField=all&pcAvailabilityMode=true)

6. Check the rating of our military at www.globalfirepower.com/countries-listing.asp.

7. In order to evaluate which states might be helpful to our state, you may need to examine extra state articles in the Europa World Plus or consult Wikipedia to discover which states have surpluses of food, fresh water or energy.

Then, answer these questions:

a) to g) one or two sentences each: be direct

a)	how strong are we? (Top 5, 10, 25, 100? Are we a global, continental, or local power?)
b)	how strong can we be? (What must change to be stronger? e.g. to a geopolitical realist Canada might need more population, where India might need less)
c)	what are our strengths? (Mention especially our strategic resources: food, water, energy and human resources)

d)	what are our weaknesses?
e)	which states can help us with our weaknesses? (Therefore which seas routes are important to us?)
f)	which states are our most substantial threats/rivals? Which is the most dangerous to us? List three. Remember to consider the geographical distances and geographical obstacles: for example a large ocean or mountain range will in practical terms reduce the threat of a state to your state compared to having a land border on a plain.
g)	which states can be our most reliable friends? List three. (Primarily based on similar enemies, or based on those states needing us for something)
h)	Therefore: Five-point Geopolitical Strategy; Number One being the most important. Justify your order <i>(h) using the rest of your 500 words)</i>

Remember to think as a geopolitical realist—this is the point of the exercise. Do not include Liberal concerns about the type of government or export growth or W.S.T. concerns about inequality. This is the world of unforgiving “self-help”, and “my state first”.

**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/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.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

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

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

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 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 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

- The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at www.registrar.uwo.ca
- Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at: <https://westernusc.ca/your-services/>
- Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://sdc.uwo.ca/>
- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Procedures for Requesting Academic Consideration

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

- For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are **not** an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- must communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration **is not** normally intended for students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability. These students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic

Accommodation for Students with Disability.

Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). These students should access support through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the **online Self-Reported Absence portal**. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities **within 48 hours or less**.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

Students will be allowed:

- a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April;
- a maximum of one self-reported absence between May and August.

Any absences in excess of the number designated above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.

- The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- Self-reported absences **will not be** allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations

scheduled during the December examination period;

- Self-reporting **may not be** used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a medical absence not covered by existing Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation, will be required to provide documentation in person to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in the form of a completed, signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence will be required to provide appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.