

Political Science – 3317F
Interest Groups And Social Movements
Fall 2011: Course Outline¹

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Office Hours: Monday 1:30-2:30, Wednesday 12:30-1:20, 3:30-5:30, every other Friday 10-12

Class: Wednesday 3:30-5:30

This course will help you critically assess issues and debates on social movements and interest groups in Canadian, North American and global politics. We will emphasize the different approaches and perspectives on interest groups and social movements with a particular focus on bottom-up approaches. We will explore the many histories of social movements with an emphasis on the political practices and tactics that allow issues to mobilize the populace, become integrated in political systems or remain on the margins of political sensibility. This will include explorations of the civil rights movement, women's liberation movements, global social movements, corporate responsibility, human rights, political lobbying, and the role of think tanks, as well as specific movements on issues such as animal rights, AIDS, water rights, migration movements, religious movements, peace movements, fair trade and municipal issues. By adopting a bottom-up approach this course encourages students to think about their own political participation and provides opportunities to engage students in their areas of interest, while relating political questions to individual choices and social issues.

Objectives:

While we will discuss historical, sociological, political, and anthropological approaches to social movements and interest groups, this course is designed to develop your work in relation to your areas of interest. This course has three main objectives.

- 1) First, you will develop an understanding of the academic literature surrounding the political issue, area, or interest group in which you are interested. This will provide a basis for any future research in this area and establish a foundation for your studies.
- 2) Second, the assignments in this course are designed to help you develop critical thinking in ways that relate to the issue or area in which you are interested. This includes an option of Community Service Learning (CSL) for course credit, where students have the opportunity to engage directly in local community issues in London. For more information on CSL go to <http://www.success.uwo.ca/index.cfm/experience/csl/>. The CSL option will be discussed in detail during the first week's class.
- 3) Finally, by the conclusion of the course students should be able to provide a critical and original analysis of the social movement or interest group they have focused on

¹Portions of this course outline draw on the course outlines of J.Marshall Beier at McMaster University and Robbie Shilliam at the Victoria University of Wellington, who I thank for their assistance.

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throughout the term. Your ability to accomplish these objectives will be assessed using the assignments and work outlined below.

Anti-requisites: Political Science 3338E

Prerequisites: Political Science 2230E or 2234E or 2244E

Grade Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Presentation: 15%

Topic Assignment: 25%

Topic Review/Analysis Essay: 40%

Required texts:

D. Stanley Eitzen, Kenneth Stewart. *Solutions to Social Problems from the Bottom Up: Successful Social Movements*. Pearson: 2007.

Grade Evaluation:

Weekly Attendance and Participation – 20%

The success of the class depends on the willingness of students to keep up with the readings on a weekly basis and to take part fully and fruitfully in the discussion. Participation marks are composed of both attendance and participation grades. You cannot receive full marks in either category if you are missing one or the other. Your participation will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the semester, and progress can be obtained at any time from the instructor upon request. Proposals for make-up work to offset absences may be considered.

Student Presentations – 15% (Various Weeks: sign up on <http://3317f.wikispaces.com/>)

The student presentations are a two part exercise. During the first class students will select a week for their presentation. The presentation should outline a history, context, event, or institution related to the social movement or interest group to be researched in the other assignments throughout the term. For students who choose to do CSL, their presentation can relate to materials or information provided by the CSL partner organization.

The presentation is NOT a research assignment into your chosen organization, social movement or interest group. Rather, the presentation should outline the context, history and development of the social movement and raise questions about its past, present and future. The goal of the presentation is to stimulate discussion in relation to the assigned course readings and the material provided to the class by the presenter. The presentation should last no more than 15 minutes per presenter.

Second, each student will find at one link to an article, pamphlet, newsletter, website, newspaper event or magazine topic and provide it to the class at least 4 days prior to the class

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meeting. The material can be posted on the wikispaces site, and early posting is encouraged so everyone can read the material prior to the presentation. THE PRESENTATION IS NOT A SUMMARY OF THE READINGS. Students who simply summarize the assigned readings will not receive full marks. Students can choose to prepare a short exercise, role playing or creative interactive exercise to raise issues and ideas that stem from the discussion questions or their reading for the week. Students do not necessarily need to present orally to the class, as long as they provide clear instructions and facilitate the exercise. The goal of the exercise is to raise analytical issues and concerns with the course material rather than summarize or re-present the material.

Topic Assignment – 25%

Option 1: Reflective Journal:

Students will produce a written journal (1250 word minimum) that covers five weeks of the course and their chosen social movement or interest group. The written journal can be handed on a weekly basis (weeks established in consultation with the instructor) or as a complete assignment on November 9. The journal should follow recent events in your social movement or interest group and reflect on those events in relation to weekly course readings. The journal should use proper referencing and citation and include material from the presentation. For students who choose to participate in the CSL option of the course, the journal can detail your impressions of your experiences with your community partner. However, the journal should not develop research on the community partner, involve first-person quotes or identifiable characteristics of any participant of organization (i.e. it should remain reflective and non-research based).¹ Academic writing requires proper referencing and foundation for your claims, therefore assertions should be substantiated and claims need to be based in logic and evidence. Assignments that fail to develop an academic argument cannot achieve full marks (see 'Guidelines for Success' below).

Option 2: Reflective Analysis

Students will produce a 1000-1250 word reflective analysis, excluding references (250 words per page) of the topic of study throughout the course. The assignment is due one week after your presentation, or 3 weeks before the final essay is due (November 9). The assignment should develop the discussion from the presentation of your social movement or interest group. The paper should address likely difficulties in developing your final paper given your interest group or social movements, as well as the likely perspectives you will take in your final paper. It should outline possible approaches, a summary of key points and reflect on the relationship between academic research and your social movement or interest group. In other words, if you are looking at the social movement or interest group from the 'bottom-up' what impediments does this create for developing academic arguments about the group? The topic assignment can be reflective, and therefore can use the first person. However, academic

¹ If students have any questions about the type of material that can be included in the reflective journal, ask the instructor at any time.

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writing requires proper referencing and foundation for your claims, therefore assertions should be substantiated and claims need to be based in logic and evidence. Assignments that fail to develop an academic argument cannot achieve full marks (see 'Guidelines for Success' below).

Topic review / Analytical Essay - 40%

Students will write a major research paper (based primarily on academic sources) on a topic of their choice, to be arrived at in consultation with the instructor. Essay topics should be chosen by week 8. In selecting an essay topic, you should be as imaginative and innovative as possible while bearing in mind the availability of relevant primary sources and the soundness of the topic in a theoretical sense. The topic selection requires an Informal discussion with instructor to determine essay topic. Not discussing the essay topic prior to choosing one may result in papers with limited relevance to the class, and will be unable to achieve full marks.

The final draft of the paper should be 15 pages (3750 words) in length (excluding the bibliography) and must be presented in proper scholarly format. The paper is due on December 7. A penalty of five (5) percent per day (excluding weekends) to a maximum of 5 days will be assessed for essays submitted after the due date. In the interest of fairness to all students, there will be no exceptions to this unless you have arranged in advance for an extension. All extensions must be arranged in advance of the day on which a paper is due. Papers submitted after deadlines (including excused late papers) will be marked, but comments will not be provided.

Week 1 September 14 – Introduction to the Course and CSL, Introduction to CSL partners, CSL Presentation, Course Presentation selection, Refining the Course Focus

Week 2 September 21 –

Readings:

Eitzen and Stewart – Chapter 1 “Social Movements and Democracy”

Week 3 September 28 –

Readings:

Eitzen and Stewart – Chapter 2 “Social Movements Advancing Toward Equality”

+ Topic decided on week 1

Week 4 October 5 –

Readings:

Eitzen and Stewart – Chapter 3 “Social Movements Promoting Democracy”

+ Topic decided on week 1

Week 5 October 12 –

Readings:

Eitzen and Stewart – Chapter 4 “Social Movements Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility”

Week 6 October 19 –

Readings:

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Eitzen and Stewart – Chapter 5 “The Next Generation: Social Movements Promoting Social Justice in a Globalizing World”

Week 7 October 26 –

Readings:

Eitzen and Stewart – Chapter 6 “Involvement in Social Movements the Importance of Citizen Activism”

Week 8 November 2 – Essay Topics Finalized

Readings:

Abelson, Donald E. "Any Ideas? Think Tanks and Policy Analysis in Canada," in Laurent Dobuzinskis, Michael Howlett and David Laycock (eds), *Policy Analysis in Canada: The State of the Art*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007, 551-573.

Week 9 November 9 – Topic Assignment Due

Readings:

Arturo Escobar “Beyond the Third World: imperial globality, global coloniality and anti-globalization social movements” *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 1, p.207-230.

Week 10 November 16 –

Readings:

To be determined by presenters.

Week 11 November 23 –

Readings:

To be determined by presenters.

Week 12 November 30 – Class wrap up, essays due.

Readings:

To be determined by presenters.

Week 13 December 7 – Overflow class for make-up presentations, or lost classes due to inclement weather/university closure

Guidelines for Success in Class

Since there seldom are definitive answers to the questions we will be asking about social movements and interest groups, and much of what you will learn in this course will be enhanced by the ideas and perspectives of your colleagues. But for this to work, everyone must participate fully and constructively. Be mindful of the following points, and you will be successful:

- Come to all classes having read the assigned readings for that week and prepared to participate in discussion.
- Participate in discussions, but do not over-participate. Everyone must be given an opportunity to take part in discussions. Constructive participation involves the raising of *relevant* points and ideas. Online participation may be considered as well in participation marks.
- Demonstrate respect for the ideas presented by others at all times. This is essential to open discussion and the free exchange of ideas. This does not mean that you must agree

with others. Informal debate will teach you even more about your own position while simultaneously exposing you to different viewpoints. Make use of such opportunities, but no disrespectful behavior will be tolerated.

- Raise questions when you have them. Raising useful questions counts as participation. You can use minute papers, online forums, e-mail, facebook or in class lecture to raise questions you encounter throughout the course. Uncertainties are usually shared by others – when you raise your questions in class everyone learns while you build your own participation grade.

Criteria for Evaluation of Written Assignments

These criteria will be used in evaluation of written work and possibly in combination with the checklist below. Please be sure to read them carefully:

Analytical Content: Higher grades will be given to work that demonstrates the ability to interpret, critically assess and develop insights of the material. To determine whether or not your argument is analytical, ask yourself "Am I demonstrating to the reader my insights in an academic way?" If you are simply summarizing or describing in detail phenomena, your work is unlikely to have high analytical content.

Helpful signs you are not developing analytical content: Excessive quotes; beginning or ending a paragraph with a quote; short (fewer than 4 sentences) paragraphs; no sources in a long paragraph; lack of similar argument in introduction and conclusion.

Development of an Argument: Higher grades will be given to work that has a clearly stated argument and a set of logically developed and reasonably comprehensive points in support of that argument. Academic arguments need not be personal (though in certain instances they can be – check with the instructor), rather they demonstrate the logical progression of the position you are developing. The key here is to attempt to convince your reader of the soundness or feasibility of your argument. Nuanced arguments recognize obvious criticisms and seek to address them logically. Consistency of an argument throughout a paper is important.

Helpful signs your argument may be in trouble: Using the same author or quote more than a few times in successive paragraphs; your introduction and conclusion are not similar; you introduce material in the introduction and the conclusion that cannot be found elsewhere; you have quotes in your conclusion; your attempt to address obvious criticisms contradicts your thesis, you adopt multiple theoretical frameworks; you cannot find any sources that agree with your central claims.

Grammar, Spelling, and Style: Higher grades will be given to written work that is grammatically correct and is clearly and accurately written, while lower grades will be given to work that is difficult to read or understand due to excessive grammatical and/or spelling errors.

While different approaches work for different people, it is recommended that you try the following every time you have a written assignment: after completing your assignment,

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put it away for a while (ideally, for a few days); when you pick it up again, read it carefully, slowly, and aloud (when we are familiar with a paper we tend to skim it during proof-reading, thereby missing errors – so make sure you are reading it word for word). Mistakes in grammar may not always look wrong, but they usually sound wrong. If you need some help with writing style or grammar, there are many resources available on campus.

Meeting the Requirements of the Assignment: All written work must be submitted on time, must be of the appropriate length, must use the required number and type of resources, and, most importantly, must address the issues or questions posed in the assignment.

Important Notices

General

All students must complete all course requirements. Failure to do so (e.g., by not handing-in an assignment or by missing an examination without due cause) will subject the student to the appropriate University regulations. Students must also keep a duplicate copy of their assignments.

Late Assignments - Formal Guidelines

Late papers will be accepted, but will be subject to a late penalty of 5 per cent per weekday to a maximum of 5 days, after which they will not be accepted and a mark of 0 will be recorded. In the interest of fairness to all students, there will be no exceptions to this unless you have arranged in advance for an extension. All extensions must be arranged in advance of the day on which a paper is due. **Papers submitted after deadlines (including excused late papers) will be marked, but comments will not be provided.**

Plagiarism

Students must also note that it is a serious academic offense to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses or to pass off another person's work as their own (i.e., plagiarism). The University of Western Ontario "Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy" defines plagiarism as follows:

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).

At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required: (i) to pass a brief oral examination on their assignment before a final grade is assigned and/or (ii) provide an electronic copy of their assignment so that their work can be checked using plagiarism-checking software (e.g.,

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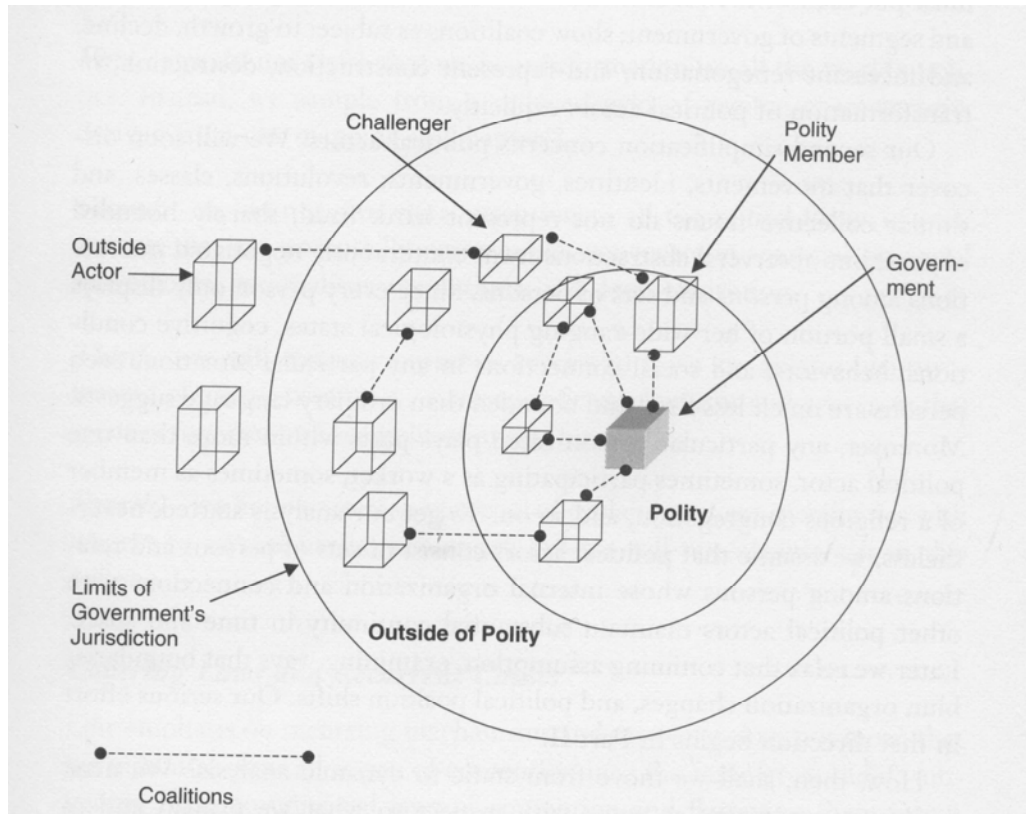
Turnitin.com). As stated in the University of Western Ontario “Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy:”

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 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>).

Examinations

The final course examinations will be held during the regular examination periods. No substitute examinations will be given; therefore students should not make their travel plans until they know their examination schedules.

Thinking about Social Movements: A Diagram



Source: McAdam, Doug, Sidney G. Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. 2001. *Dynamics of contention*. Cambridge studies in contentious politics. New York: Cambridge University Press. Page 11.

Resources on Social Movements, Interest Groups and Political Actors

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- Barakso, Maryann. 2004. *Governing NOW: Grassroots activism in the national organization for women*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.
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**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 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.