

University of Western Ontario: Department of Political Science

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2211E

Business and Government

Fall-Winter 2012-2013

Mondays 3:30-6:30 p.m., KB 106

Course Director

Dr. Adam Harmes

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Office Hours: Mondays 1-2:30 p.m.

Course Description: This course reviews the relationship between business and government emphasizing both the Canadian and global contexts. On the government side, the focus will be primarily on the federal government while on the business side the focus will be primarily on the large public companies (that is, those listed on the stock exchange). With this focus in mind, the course examines historical and contemporary issues in business-government relations as well as a variety of theories and concepts that are useful for understanding them.

Notice on Pre/Anti-requisites: Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have NOT taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If a student is found to be ineligible for a course, they may be removed from it at any time and they will receive no adjustment to their fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If a student finds that they do not have the course requisites, they should drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. This will not only help their academic record but will also ensure that spaces are made available to other students.

Course Structure: The course meets weekly on Monday afternoons from 3:30-6:30 p.m. and will consist of two hour lectures from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and one hour tutorials from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Required Readings: A course reading kit is available from the university book store and additional readings are posted on the course website.

Evaluation:

Debate	10%	In scheduled tutorials
First Term Essay	25%	Due 5 November
First Term Exam	20%	Exam Period
Op-Ed Writing Assignment	20%	Due 11 March
Final Exam	25%	Exam Period

Tutorial Debates

10%

Each student will participate in one debate. Debates will take place from 5:30-6:30 pm during the tutorial period after the lecture. The sign-up list for debate topics will be posted on the instructor's office door and students must sign-up for a topic no later than before class on the 24th of September. A list of debate topics and dates is available on the course website. When students sign-up for a debate topic they must choose either the affirmative or negative position. If some topics are under-subscribed, some students may be asked to choose other topics in order to ensure four persons per team. Each team must provide a 3 page, typed, point-form summary of their main arguments including a bibliography of no less than 10 sources. The debates will be graded on the basis of an overall team mark worth 10% of the course. A debate instruction sheet and grading guide is available on the course website. Students who miss their debates without prior arrangement with the course instructor will be given a grade of zero. Tutorial attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at random with penalty marks being deducted from individual debate grades.

First Term Essay

25%

One first term research essay is due on 5 November and should be 12-15 typed double-spaced pages in length (longer papers will not be accepted). The purpose of the essay is to identify the ideas and interests involved in the debate over a specific public policy issue and to argue in favour of one side or the other. In doing so, students will: identify the key ideas and arguments on each side of the debate and explain which theoretical approach they connect to (i.e. neoliberal or Keynesian-welfare); identify the specific interest groups that support each side of the debate; and, using detailed research, argue in favour of one side of the debate. The public policy issue for the essay will be chosen by students based on a list at the end of this course outline. The essays will be marked for research, argument, organization and writing style and should conform to the format that will be discussed in detail in class. An essay grading guide is available on the course website. Bibliographies must have at least 10 sources which conform to the standards outlined in class. Essays are due at the beginning of class no later than 3:30 pm. Once the lecture begins, the paper is late. Late essays will receive a late penalty of 15%. Late essays are then due the following week at the start of class no later than 3:30. After that, the essay will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. Extensions will only be granted for documented medical and other emergencies in accordance with university policy (available at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>). All essays must also be submitted to turnitin.com through the course website as outlined in class.

First Term Exam

20%

The first term exam will cover material from the lectures and readings and will include both multiple choice and essay-style questions. It will be held on a date to be determined by the Registrar during the December exam period. No electronic devices will be allowed.

Op-Ed Writing Piece

20%

One op-ed writing piece is due on 11 March and it should be between 700-800 words in length. Students will write an op-ed on the same topic as their debate topic. However, for the op-ed, they may choose either the pro or con position regardless of which side they were on for the debate. Op-ed pieces will be marked for research, organization and writing style and should conform to

the format that will be discussed in detail in class. An op-ed grading guide is available on the course website. Op-eds are due at the beginning of class no later than 3:30 pm. Once the lecture begins, the op-ed is late. Late op-eds will receive a late penalty of 15%. Late op-eds are then due the following week at the start of class no later than 3:30. After that, the op-ed will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. Extensions will only be granted for documented medical and other emergencies in accordance with university policy (available at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>). All op-eds must also be submitted to turnitin.com through the course website as outlined in class.

Final Exam 25%

The final exam will cover material from the lectures and readings from the second term only and will include both multiple choice and essay-style questions. It will be held on a date to be determined by the Registrar during the April exam period. No electronic devices will be allowed.

Lecture Notes and PPT Slides

Lecture notes and PowerPoint slides will NOT be posted. If you miss class, you will need to get the notes from other students.

Academic Offenses and Plagiarism:

Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the university policy at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

As noted above, essays and op-ed writing assignments must be submitted both in hard copy and electronically to the plagiarism checking website turnitin.com (available through the course website and under license to the University). Please be advised that: 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept. 10 Introduction

This class will be used to introduce the general subject matter of the course and to outline the course structure, readings and requirements.

Sept. 17 The Science of Election Campaigns

This class examines the strategy, tactics and techniques used in the fighting of modern election campaigns including concepts such as ‘political triage’, ‘political marketing’ and the key components of an election strategy including the ‘air war’ and ‘ground war’.

Required Readings:

Thomas Flanagan. 2010 “Campaign Strategy: Triage and the Concentration of Resources” in H. MacIvor (ed.) *Election* (Toronto: Emond Montgomery Publications Ltd., 327 pages,

ISBN 978-1-55239-321-5), pp. 155-172.

Susan Delacourt and Alex Marland. 2009. "From Sales to Marketing: The Evolution of the Party Pitch". *Policy Options*. September 2009, pp. 46-51.

No Tutorial

Sept. 24 The Canadian Political System

This class examines the Canadian and US political systems including key institutions such as the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and political parties.

Required Readings:

Donald Savoie. 1999. "The Rise of Court Government in Canada". *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 32(4): 635-664.

Jonathan Malloy. 2006. "Is There a Democratic Deficit in Canadian Legislatures and Executives?" in J. Grace and B. Sheldrick (eds.), *Canadian Politics: Democracy and Dissent* (Toronto: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 392 pages, ISBN0-13-243372-9), pp. 61-84.

Tutorial: Discussion of Debate Requirements and Organization of Debating Teams

Oct. 1 Essay Research and Writing Skills

This class examines various skills associated with the research and writing of academic papers. Specific skills covered will include: finding academic articles through Google Scholar and other databases; finding reports by think tanks, governments and NGOs; acceptable and non-acceptable sources; developing a thesis argument; writing essay introductions; organizing the essay; how and when to cite sources; required formats for citations and bibliographies; and specific requirements for the first term essay.

Required Readings:

See related handouts on the course website.

Tutorial: Debating Teams Planning Meeting

Oct. 8 Thanksgiving Holiday - No Class

Oct. 15 The Liberal/Neoliberal Approach to Economic Policy

This class examines the key assumptions and arguments of the liberal/neoliberal approach to economic policy.

Required Readings:

Michael Howlett, Alex Netherton and M. Ramesh. *The Political Economy of Canada: An Introduction* (2nd Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999, 384 pages, ISBN 0-19-541348-2) Chapter 2, "Liberal Political Economy" pp. 17-35.

Tutorial: Debate #1

Oct. 22 The Keynesian-Welfare Approach to Economic Policy

This class examines the key assumptions and arguments of the Keynesian-welfare approach to economic policy.

Required Readings:

Richard Lipsey, Christopher Ragan and Paul Courant. *Economics* (9th Canadian Edition, 1997,

Addison-Wesley Publishers Ltd, 865 pages, ISBN 0-673-98358-7) Chapter 18, “The Benefits and Costs of Government Intervention” pp. 381-402.

Tutorial: Debate #2

Oct. 29 The Politics of Economic Policy and the Canadian Market Structure

This class examines the politics of economic policy including the relationship between ideas and interests and the political spectrum in Canada and the United States. It also examines the basic structure of the Canadian market including business concentration, foreign ownership, the role of natural resources and Canada’s economic regions.

Required Readings:

Brian Lyons. *Canadian Economics: Problems and Policies*. (4th Edition, Prentice Hall Canada, 924 pages, ISBN 0-13-055014-0) Chapter 16 “The Politics of Economics” pp. 343-352.
Graham Taylor. 2009. *The Rise of Canadian Business*. (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 286 pages, ISBN 978-0-19-542549-9), Chapter 13, “Into the Millennium”, pp. 235-255.

Tutorial: Debate #3

Nov. 5 Monetary and Financial Policy

This class reviews basic macroeconomics, monetary policy and international financial policy and applies it to the original period of economic globalization which existed in the late nineteenth century before the First World War.

Required Readings:

James Brander. *Government Policy Towards Business, Third Edition*. (Wiley, 498 pages, ISBN 0-471-64141-3), “Chapter 17 Macroeconomic Policy” pp.433-471.
Adam Harmes. *Unseen Power* (Stoddart, 2001, 240 pages, ISBN 0773732837) “International Economics 101: ‘The Impossible Trinity’” pp. 50-53.

****ESSAYS DUE AT START OF CLASS BY 3:30 - Once the lecture starts, the paper is late****

No Tutorial

Nov. 12 Fiscal and Social Policy

This class examines the basics of fiscal and social policy including taxes, deficits and debt as well as key concepts related to government-provided social programs.

Required Readings:

Lydia Miljan. *Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction, Fifth Edition*. (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2008, 334 pages, ISBN 978-0-19-542682-3). “Chapter 6 Social Policy”, pp. 150-176.
Stephen Brooks and Andrew Stritch. *Business and Government in Canada*. (Scarborough, ON: Prentice-Hall Canada Inc., 1991, 482 pages, ISBN 0-13-098427-2), “Chapter 11 Business Regulation”, pp. 331-356.

Tutorial: Debate #4

Nov. 19 Fighting Recessions: Comparing the Great Recession and Great Depression

This class examines the causes and political implications of recessions as well as the policy tools governments use to fight them through the specific cases of the recent Great Recession as well as the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Required Readings:

Paul Krugman. "How Did Economists Get It So Wrong?". *New York Times Magazine*. 6 September 2009.

David Norman Smith et al. 2011. "Mapping the Great Recession: A Reader's Guide to the First Crisis of 21st Century Capitalism". *New Political Science*. 33(4): 577-601.

Tutorial: Debate #5

Nov. 26 The Rise of the Welfare State

This class examines the post-Depression rise of the welfare state including the New Deal of the 1930s, the 1944 Bretton Woods Agreement and the growth of the welfare state after the Second World War.

Required Readings:

Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke. *Straight Through the Heart: How the Liberals Abandoned the Just Society* (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., 1995, 259 pages, ISBN 0-00-255306-6) Chapter 1 "Building the Just Society", pp. 7-40.

Eric Helleiner. *States and the Reemergence of Global Finance* (Cornell University Press, 1994, 255 pages, ISBN 0-8014-8333-6) Chapter 2 "Bretton Woods and the Endorsement of Capital Controls" pp. 25-50.

Tutorial: Debate #6

Dec. 3 Fordism and the Managerial Revolution

This class examines the managerial revolution in corporation governance, the Berle-Means model of the modern corporation and the post-WWII structure of business-labour relations known as Fordism.

Required Readings:

David Harvey. *The Condition of Postmodernity* (Blackwell Publishers, 1990, 388 pages, ISBN 0-631-16294-1) Chapter 8 "Fordism" pp. 125-140.

Alfred Chandler. *The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1977, 608 pages, ISBN 0-674-94051-2) Chapter 14 "The Maturing of Modern Business Enterprise" pp. 455-483.

Tutorial: Discussion of Exam and Return of Essays

-----Xmas Break-----

Jan. 7 Debates #7 and #8

This class will be a double tutorial covering debates #7 and #8.

Jan. 14 The Crisis of the Welfare State and the Rise of Neoliberalism

This class examines the 1970s stagflation crisis of the welfare state, the collapse of the Bretton Woods regime and the rise of neoliberalism.

Required Readings:

Mark Blyth. *Great Transformations: Economic Ideas and Institutional Change in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002, 284 pages, ISBN 0-521-01052-7) Chapter 5 "Disembedding Liberalism: Ideas to Break a Bargain" pp. 126-151.

Stephen McBride and John Shields. *Dismantling a Nation* (Fernwood Publishing, 1997, 224 pages, ISBN 1-895686-81-4) Chapter 3 “Dismantling the Post-War Economic Order”, pp. 53-76.

Tutorial: Debate #9

Jan. 21 Business and Canadian Federalism

This class examines the neoliberal and Keynesian-welfare approaches to federalism as well as the competition between business and social activists in the ongoing debates over Canadian federalism and the constitution.

Required Readings:

Adam Harmes. 2007. “The Political Economy of Open Federalism”. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 40(2), pp. 417-437.

Robert Jackson and Doreen Jackson. *Politics in Canada: Culture, Institutions, Behaviour and Public Policy, Sixth Edition*. (Toronto: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006, ISBN 0-13-129641-8, 617 pages), Chapter 7 “The Magic of Nationalism and the Lure of Regionalism” pp, 214-257.

Tutorial: Debate #10

Jan. 28 The Globalization of Finance and the Offshore World

This class examines some of the main components of economic globalization including the globalization of financial markets and the rise of new financial actors as well as the growth of the offshore world.

Required Readings:

Thomas Friedman. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* (London: HarperCollins Publishers, 2000, 490 pages, ISBN 0-00-655139-4) Chapter 7 “The Electronic Herd”, pp. 112-142.

Eric Helleiner. “From Bretton Woods to Global Finance” pp. 163-175 in R. Stubbs and G. Underhill (eds.), *Political Economy and the Changing Global Order* (McClelland and Stewart, 1994, 553 pages, ISBN 0-7710-8346-7).

Tutorial: Discussion of Op-Ed Requirements

Feb. 4 Recent Trends in Corporate Governance

The class looks at the recent trends in corporate governance including the hostile takeover wave of the 1980s, the downsizing and M&A wave of the 1990s and the shift to a more market-oriented relationship between business and labour.

Required Readings:

Adam Harmes. *Unseen Power* (Stoddart, 2001, 272 pages, ISBN 0-7737-3283-7) Chapter 7 “Corporate Board Games” pp. 171-201.

Roger Martin. 2010. “The Age of Customer Capitalism”. *Harvard Business Review*. January-February, 2010: 58-65.

Tutorial: Debate #11

Feb. 11 Free Trade, the Globalization of Production and Post-Fordism

This class examines free trade, the globalization of production and offshore outsourcing as well as the shift to the more market-oriented structure of business-labour relations known as post-Fordism.

Required Readings:

David Harvey. *The Condition of Postmodernity* (Blackwell Publishers, 1990, 388 pages, ISBN 0-631-16294-1) Chapter 9 “From Fordism to flexible accumulation” pp. 141-172.

Thomas Friedman. *The World Is Flat* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005, 488 pages, ISBN 0-374-29288-4) Sections on: “Outsourcing” pp. 103-113, “Offshoring” pp. 114-127, “Supply-Chaining” pp. 128-141.

Tutorial: Debate #12

Feb. 18 Reading Week - No Class

Feb. 25 The Debate Over Free Trade and Globalization

This class examines various positions in the debate over free trade and the globalization of production including neoliberal, classical liberal, Keynesian-welfare and socialist.

Required Readings:

Robert Gilpin. *The Challenge of Global Capitalism: The World Economy in the 21st Century* (Princeton University Press, 2000, 373 pages, ISBN 0-691-09279-6), Chapter 10 “Globalization and Its Discontents”, pp. 293-324.

Dani Rodrik. 2001. “Trading in Illusions” *Foreign Policy* March/April, pp. 55-62.

Tutorial: Debate #13

Mar. 4 Business and Canadian Foreign Policy

This class examines different approaches to Canadian foreign policy, a brief history of how it evolved and some current issues in Canadian foreign policy.

Required Readings:

John Kirton. “Harper’s ‘Made in Canada’ Global Leadership” in A. Cooper and D. Rowlands (eds.), *Canada Among Nations 2006: Minorities and Priorities*. (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2006, 367 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0-7735-3170-3), pp. 34-57.

Christina Gabriel and Laura Macdonald. 2004. “Of Borders and Business: Canadian Corporate Proposals for ‘Deep Integration’”. *Studies in Political Economy*. 74: 79-100.

Tutorial: Debate #14

Mar. 11 Business Lobbying

This class examines why and how business attempts to influence government policy including various public relations techniques and the rise of government relations specialists.

Required Readings:

D.W. Taylor, A.A. Warrack and M.C. Baetz. *Business and Government in Canada* (Prentice Hall Canada, 1999, 455 pages, ISBN 0-13-080716-8) Chapter 12 “Business Dealing With Government” pp. 171-192.

Jamie Brownlee. *Ruling Canada: Corporate Cohesion and Democracy*. (Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, 2005, 168 pages, ISBN1-55266-156-3), “Chapter 4: Intersectoral Policy Organizations”, pp. 72-94.

****OP-EDS DUE AT START OF CLASS BEFORE 3:30 p.m. - Once the lecture starts, the op-**

*ed is late***

No Tutorial

Mar. 18 The Market Power of Business

This class begins with the movie *No Logo* (Weldon: HD 2755.5.N655 2003 - 40 minutes) on various concerns over the market power of brand name corporations. It then goes on to look at some other recent concerns related to big business including the rise of hedge funds.

Required Readings:

Adam Harmes. "The Trouble With Hedge Funds", *The Review of Policy Research* 19(1) 2002, pp. 156-176.

Martin Wolf. *Why globalization works*. (New Haven: Yale Nota Bene-Yale University Press, 2004, 398 pages, ISBN 0-300-10777-3), "Chapter 11 Cowed By Corporations", pp. 220-248.

Tutorial: Debate #15

Mar. 25 The Anti-Corporate/Anti-Globalization Movement

This class examines the origins of the anti-globalization movement, the key anti-globalization groups and their demands as well as the concept of brand-based activism.

Required Readings:

Duncan Green and Matthew Griffith. "Globalization and Its Discontents", *International Affairs* 78(1), pp. 49-68.

Naomi Klein. *No Logo*. (Toronto: Knopf Canada, ISBN 067697130X, 490 pages) Chapter 14 "Bad Mood Rising: The New Anti-Corporate Activism" pp. 325-343 and Chapter 15 "The Brand Boomerang: The Tactics of Brand-Based Campaigns" pp. 345-363.

Tutorial: Debate #16

Apl. 1 Current Issue in Business-Government Relations

This class examines a current issue in business-government relations and may include a guest lecture or video presentation. ISA 2013 in San Fran is this week (3-6 Apl, Wed-Sat)

No Tutorial

Apl. 8 The Corporate Social Responsibility Movement

This class examines how business leaders are responding to anti-corporate activists through the efforts to promote greater corporate social responsibility and voluntary codes of conduct. It also examines the pros and cons of corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Required Readings:

Keith Davis and William Frederick. *Business and Society: Management, Public Policy Ethics* (Fifth Edition, McGraw-Hill, ISBN 0-07-015555-0, 606 pages) Chapter 2 "Corporate Social Responsibility: Pros and Cons" pp. 26-44.

Virginia Haufler. *A Public Role for the Private Sector* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2001, 159 pages, ISBN 0-87003-176-7) Chapter 1 "Public and Private Interests in Global Regulation: An Overview of the Issues" pp. 7-30.

Tutorial: Return of Op-Eds and Discussion of Final Exam

**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.

Mental Health at Western: If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.