Lecturer: Dan Bousfield  
E-Mail: dbousfie@uwo.ca  
Academic Facebook account: facebook.com/dan.bousfield  
Academic Twitter account: dbousfie  
Skype: dan.bousfield  
Office: SSC 4084  
Office Hours: Monday 9-11, 4:30-on, Wednesday 10-12, 5:30-on, Every other Friday 10-12  
Class: Mondays 2:30 – 4:30

This course will help you critically assess Canadian Foreign Policy and explain the changes in policy over time. We will emphasize the different actors in the creation of foreign policy, as well as specific policies, their implantation and outcomes. We will address a range of perspectives and debates about the creation of foreign policy and address issues such as human security, trade relations, war, sovereignty and immigration.

**Objectives:**

This course has three main objectives. First, this course is designed to outline and allow you to assess the perspectives and issues that shape the context and creation of Canadian Foreign Policy. This will provide a foundation for any future interests in Canadian and International Relations and establish a foundation for future research in areas and topics that are of interest to you. Second, the assignments in this course are designed to help you develop your critical thinking in ways that relate to specific issues and events in Canadian Foreign Policy. While we will cover a range of debates and issues, you need to decide which you find most interesting and which you will focus on in your work. Third, by the conclusion of this course you should be able to provide a critical and original argument about Canadian Foreign Policy. Your ability to accomplish these objectives will be assessed using the assignments and work outlined below.

**Recommended Texts (do not purchase until after the first class):**


**Readings:**

All other readings are available on-line, on 2-hour reserve, or in the periodical section at the Weldon Library.
Evaluation:
Seminar Participation - 20%
First Term Assignment – 6%
Policy Analysis - 15%
Midterm Exam - 15%
Second Term Assignment – 9%
Essay - 20%
Final Exam – 15%

Attendance and Participation: 20% - Ongoing

The success of the seminar 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.

First Term Assignment – 6% (sign up on 3333e.wikispaces.com)

Assignment: Choose a topic or issue from http://embassymag.ca/ or http://www.hilltimes.com/ that relates to a Canadian Foreign Policy Issue. The presentation will be given in class, and should be no more than 8 minutes (by the presenter/video combined). The subsequent discussion is not considered part of the 8 min. You will be assigned grades based on your fulfillment of the requirements below.

Prepare a presentation for the class on the issue. The presentations should include:

1. A video clip or related website that provides information on your topic or issue. This will be linked under your name below and shown at the beginning of the presentation. The clip should provide relevant information or additional context to the issue.¹
2. A way to situate the event historically, or give the event context in Canadian foreign-policy. This can involve a brief description, an academic article or popular press article, made available on the website.
3. A characterization of the issue for the class based on a theoretical approach to the course. If you are presenting in the first hour of the class you should try to focus on a state-centric/realist/Canadian realist perspectives on the issue. If you’re presenting during the second hour of the class you should focus on one liberal/critical/feminist/Marxist/aboriginal views of the issue.
4. Propose the foundations of a debate on your issue based on the theoretical perspective, the historical context and the video clip. This should include a written summary of the issue, context and theory followed by a central question and three possible points for each side to help stimulate debate.

Second Term Assignment – 9% (sign up on 3333e.wikispaces.com)

Students have the option of developing an assignment on a topic or area of interest in Canadian Foreign Policy. Options include:

¹ All video clips must be preapproved by the instructor prior to any display in the classroom. No clip should contain disturbing or offensive material or make anyone in the class feel uncomfortable or unwelcome. The instructor reserves the right to reject any material, on any grounds at any time at the instructor’s discretion. The classroom is a space for the free exchange of ideas, and any material that impedes the ability of anyone to fully and comfortably participate will be excluded.
a) An essay proposal. Students will create a 1000 word summary, excluding references (250 words per page) of the proposed topic for the research essay that highlights the thesis of the research, the perspective on Canadian Foreign Policy adopted and the area of interest for the paper. The proposal must be in proper formal essay format (no bullet points, short form or colloquial language), use proper citation and should NOT include any form of annotated bibliography. A basic structure for the assignment would include 1) Title, topic and thesis question or area of interest for the research proposal. 2) Possible perspectives used to study the thesis (such as realist, liberal, feminist, Marxist, constructivist) and why the one chosen perspective is MOST appropriate. 3) A summary of key points likely to structure the research essay. These should outline key ideas, concepts, people or places, but express clear analytical thinking. Simple lists or unfocused summaries are not likely to receive high marks. 4) Likely resources to draw upon for the research paper. This should not be a summary, but examine common themes in potential sources, as well as explaining clearly the clusters of sources you have found to this point. This may include non-academic sources, but there must be a minimum of 4 academic sources (at least one per theme). 5) A concluding statement of the usefulness or goals of the research and why the topic chosen is relevant to Canadian Foreign Policy. The essay proposal must be handed in before October 31 (preferable sooner), and you must sign up for this option on the wiki site.

b) 5 individual response/reaction papers from the week’s readings. These must be handed in on separate weeks and should reflect and engage with some of the assigned reading material for the week. The length of each paper should be between 250-500 words and must be handed in paper form. Electronic submission will not be accepted. The name, student number and date must be on the submission.

c) A paired presentation debating a topic or issue from the week’s readings. The presentation should be no longer than 10 minutes and can be done in class or prepared on video beforehand and shown to the class during class time. The date of the presentation must be set on the wiki site at least 2 weeks before presentation.

d) A creative skit or presentation with a maximum of 2 other classmates. The skit will be no more than 10 minutes and will address the week’s topic. The date of the skit must be set on the wiki site at least 2 weeks before presentation.

e) Prepared group work based on the week’s readings with a partner. A maximum of two students will prepare a short 10-15 minute exercise to be done at the end of the lecture for the class. The exercise will be interactive, but must be confirmed and approved with the instructor at least one week prior to the start of class. NO presentations without previous approval will be allowed. The date of the group work must be set on the wiki site at least 2 weeks before presentation.

f) Present a short video clip to be presented to the class that is both relevant and provocative of the week’s reading. The clip must be supported by at least 5 well thought out discussion questions or a written discussion of the relation between the video topic and the week’s theme. The date of the video presentation must be set on the wiki site at least 2 weeks before presentation.

g) A media assessment assignment. This assignment will critically engage with a movie or documentary that deals with Canadian Foreign Policy. All media must have sufficient levels of Canadian Foreign Policy content to warrant its use AND have prior approval of the instructor. Students must be signed up on the wiki site at least 2 weeks before it is handed in. The media assessment must critically engage with the content of the movie for its use in understanding Canadian Foreign Policy, as well as base arguments in academic research and debates. You should assess the media for its arguments about Canadian Foreign Policy, and the viability of the arguments given the academic debates on the issue. The assignment should be a minimum of

2 All video clips must be preapproved by the instructor prior to any display in the classroom. No clip should contain disturbing or offensive material or make anyone in the class feel uncomfortable or unwelcome. The instructor reserves the right to reject any material, on any grounds at any time at the instructor’s discretion. The classroom is a space for the free exchange of ideas, and any material that impedes the ability of anyone to fully and comfortably participate will be excluded.
1250 words, in proper essay format (with title page and bibliography) and have a minimum of 4 academic sources.

h) Post essay assignment. This assignment is a reflection on your essay’s strengths and weaknesses, as well as changes and surprises that you encountered in the writing process. Students must hand in their essays by November 22 to be eligible for this assignment. The assignment should use the format of the essay proposal (see above) but does not need to be more than 1000 words. The Post-Essay assignment should suggest ways that the research would be improved as well as issues with sources and topics and theories. The choice of this option must be signed up for on the wiki spaces site, and cannot be chose if the essay is not submitted by November 22.

i) A proposed alternative that engages with the material, or engages the class on the week’s material, or demonstrates a clear perspective about a issue or topic in Canadian Foreign Policy (subject to the instructors approval). The date of any alternative option must be set on the wiki site at least 2 weeks before its presentation to the class.

Policy Analysis: 15% Due November 19

Students will choose a current or past Canadian Foreign Policy, and critically assess the policy for key actors, context, assumptions and implications. This is an eight page (2000 word + bibliography) assignment that should provide a clear analysis and perspective of the foreign policy, based on government documents or publicly available information. A sample of the format requirements may be given to students to follow.

Policy analysis requirements: policy analysis is not a formal essay; it is an assessment and appraisal of an existing policy with recommendations and proposals based on evidence and a theoretical orientation (a fundamental belief in the way the world functions). A policy analysis should include the following components:

1. An executive summary: 200 words, with the purpose of the analysis on the first page. It should be clear and concise and summarize the entire policy analysis.
3. Background: contextualize the issue, state your interest in the issue, identify actors and discuss key elements of the issue.
4. Policy options: a policy analysis should include three policy options moving forward. These options should anticipate opposition; outline the advantages and disadvantages as well as any factors impacting the implementation of the proposal. In other words your policy options should address their feasibility and the most grounded perspective possible.
5. Policy recommendation: you must recommend one of the policy options and justify the choice without excessive equivocation. You should also propose a plan of implementation for your policy recommendation.
6. A list of references and sources used throughout the summary. Footnotes should also be used throughout the text.

Essay: 20% - Due March 25

Students will prepare an essay of 2500 to 3000 words in length (excluding bibliography - anything beyond 3000 words will not be marked) that presents a clear and detailed argument about a Canadian Foreign Policy, issue, event or actor. Students will select a specific issue/event or debate that deals with Canadian Foreign Policy and develop their argument using academic sources. Students should have a clear thesis advocating their approach for its greater analytic/explanatory value. (See ‘Criteria for Evaluation of Written Assignments’ below). Please note that papers must be submitted in hard copy in class and cannot be accepted electronically or by fax. Late papers will be penalized 5% per weekday.

Midterm Exam: 15%
The midterm exam will be based on the material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and discussions throughout the whole of the course. The exam may include both a short answer/identification component and questions requiring longer, essay-style responses. Choice of answers and an exam preparation guide may be given.

**Final Exam: 15%**

The final exam will be cumulative (i.e., will be based on the material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and discussions throughout the whole of the course). The exam may include both a short answer/identification component and questions requiring longer, essay-style responses. Choice of answers and an exam preparation guide may be given.

**Guidelines for Success in Class**

Since there seldom are definitive answers to the questions we will be asking about Canadian Foreign Policy, 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. It is useful to remember that some week’s readings may be more relevant to your research interests than others, and focusing on readings that are most salient to your interests will ensure maximum usefulness in the course.
- 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 will 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. 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, 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.

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 and electronic copy of their assignment so that their work can be checked using plagiarism-checking software (e.g., 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 Christmas and final course examinations will be held during the regular examination periods. No substitute examinations will be given; therefore students should not make their holiday travel plans until they know their examination schedules.

Class-Chosen Topics:
1. Disciplinary Neoliberalism and Canadian Foreign Policy
2. US-Canada Defence Cooperation
3. Ballistic Missile Defence
4. The Human Security Agenda
5. The Ottawa Process
6. Canada’s Role in International Financial Governance
7. Question of Arctic Sovereignty
8. Canada and Social Reproduction
9. Canada and the Middle East
10. Canada and Cyberdefence
11. Canada and Climate Change
12. Canada and the Oil Sands
13. Canada and Foreign Aid
14. Canada and Israel/Palestine Relations
15. Canada and Guantanamo Bay
16. Children and Militarism
17. Canadian Branding and Canadian Foreign Policy
18. Gateway Policy
19. Canada and WMD
20. Canada and the Commonwealth
21. Canada and First Nations
22. Trudeau and Clark
23. Harper
24. Chretien and Martin
25. Axworthy
26. Pearson
27. King

(1) Sept. 10 — Overview and Introduction – Begin Topic Selection

(2) Sept. 17 — Theories and Overviews of Canadian Foreign Policy: Choose at least one reading for each hour

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<td>(C) Heather A. Smith &quot;The Disciplining Nature of Canadian Foreign Policy&quot; in Canadian Foreign Policy in Critical Perspective, eds. J. Marshall Beier and Lana Wylie (Don Mills; Oxford University Press, 2010), pp.3-14.</td>
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### (3) Sept. 24 Values and Ideals in Canadian Foreign Policy: Choose at least one reading for each hour

**Hour 1:**

**Hour 2:**

### (4) Oct. 1 —Gender in Canadian Foreign Policy: Choose at least one reading for each hour

**Hour 1:**
(R) Carolyn James "Civil-Military Relations and Canadian Foreign Policy: The Case of Gender Integration and the Canadian Navy" in Handbook of Canadian Foreign Policy, eds Patrick James, et al. (London: Lexington Books, 2007).

**Hour 2:**
(C) Alison Howell, "The Art of Governing Trauma: treating PTSD in the Canadian Military as Foreign Policy Practice" in Canadian Foreign Policy in Critical Perspective, eds. J. Marshall Beier and Lana Wylie (Don Mills; Oxford University Press, 2010), pp.113-125.

### (5) Oct. 15 - The Executive: Choose at least one of the following readings for each hour

**Hour 1:**

**Hour 2:**
(C) Allan Gotleib. Romanticism and Realism in Canada's Foreign Policy. Policy Options. February 2006.

### (6) Oct. 22 — Cabinet and Parliament: Choose at least one of the following readings

**Hour 1:**
(7) Oct. 29 - The Populace and Canadian Foreign Policy

Hour 1:
Issue: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/pm-resists-g8-calls-for-more-aid-to-egypt-tunisia/article2036781/

Hour 2:

(8) Nov. 5 - To be chosen in class from the list of topics above.

(9) Nov. 12 - To be chosen in class from the list of topics above.

(10) Nov 19. – POLICY ANALYSIS DUE – Topic to be chosen in class from the list of topics above.

(11) Nov. 26 - To be chosen in class from the list of topics above.

(12) Dec. 3 – Exam Review and final presentations

TERM 2

(13) Jan. 7 - The Provinces

Hour 1:

Hour 2:

(14) Jan. 14 – Canada and Militarization

Hour 1:

Hour 2:
(C)Colleen Bell "Fighting the War and Winning the Peace: Three Critiques of the War in Afghanistan" in Canadian Foreign Policy in Critical Perspective, eds. J. Marshall Beier and Lana Wylie (Don Mills; Oxford

(15) Jan. 21 Canadian Foreign Policy and Diplomacy- Choose at least one reading

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<td>(C) Rebecca Tiessen &quot;Youth Ambassadors Abroad? Canadian Foreign Policy and Public Diplomacy in the Developing World&quot; in Canadian Foreign Policy in Critical Perspective, eds. J. Marshall Beier and Lana Wylie (Don Mills; Oxford University Press, 2010).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Samantha L. Arnold, &quot;Home and Away: Public Diplomacy and the Canadian Self&quot; in Canadian Foreign Policy in Critical Perspective, eds. J. Marshall Beier and Lana Wylie (Don Mills; Oxford University Press, 2010).</td>
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(16) Jan. 28 - Summity and Canadian Foreign Policy: Choose at least one of the following readings

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(17) Feb. 4 – Canada and Trade Relations

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(18) Feb. 11 – Canada, the US and Haiti


(19) Feb. 25 – Canadian Mining Operations

Stefano Ponte, Lisa Ann Richey, Mike Baab, “Bono’s Product (RED) Initiative: corporate social
responsibility that solves the problems of ‘distant others’” Third World Quarterly Vol. 30, Iss. 2, 2009

(20) Mar. 4 – The Question of Arctic Sovereignty


(21) Mar. 11 – Topic to be decided from the list above

(22) Mar. 18 - Topic to be decided from the list above

(23) Mar. 25 - Topic to be decided from the list above

(24) April 8 Exam Review

US-Canada Defence Cooperation


Ballistic Missile Defence


The Human Security Agenda


The Ottawa Process


Canada’s Role in International Financial Governance


Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament


Canada-Asia Relations


Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada "Asia Pacific Gateway" 2010 available at http://www.asiapacific.ca/gateway - read all sections.
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/](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/)

Students registered in Social Science should refer to [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/) [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp](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](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/](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.