Political Science 4426G  
Genocide

Fall 2019  
Instructor: Joanna R. Quinn
Thursdays 1:30-3:30  
Office Location: SSC 4158
Location: SSC 4255  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00-11:00
Contact: jquinn2@uwo.ca

Course Description:
An examination of the theoretical and methodological issues related to the topic of genocide and a consideration of empirical cases of genocide and genocidal acts, such as “ethnic cleansing.” The course begins by looking at the definition of genocide provided by the 1948 UN Genocide Convention and the legal-political context in which that convention was held. We will examine recent debates and alternative theoretical models by referring to selected specific cases, beginning with those of the Armenians and Nazi Germany in the first half of the Twentieth century, and then move to discuss more recent cases, including those in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Bosnia, among others.

Texts:


Prerequisites/Antirequisites

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science
Objectives

This course has three main objectives:

First, this course is designed to outline and allow students to assess the theories, perspectives and issues that shape the context and nature of the field of genocide studies. This will provide a foundation for any future interests and research in this area and establish a comparative foundation for further study.

Second, the assignments in this course are designed to help students develop critical thinking in ways that relate to specific issues and case studies in genocide studies. While we will cover a range of debates and issues, the goal is for students to pursue an in-depth study of at least two areas that they find most interesting.

Third, by the conclusion of this course, students should be able to provide a critical and original argument about the field of genocide studies. Students’ ability to accomplish these objectives will be assessed using the assignments and work outlined below.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Discuss different approaches to genocide studies
2. Describe the key events, changes over time and the current state of genocide studies
3. Think critically and write about an issue in genocide studies
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of a policy or inter-state issue in genocide studies
5. Participate in a presentation about a particular perspective through a case study of genocide studies
6. Analyze current policy and political issues in genocide studies
7. Discuss a current genocide studies issue in historical context

Attendance

In a seminar, it is especially important for students to attend class. Failure to attend class will have a detrimental effect on a student’s participation grade, for example, since students cannot participate if they are not present in class. Absence also affects a student’s understanding of the material, which affects the student’s performance on essays and other assignments.
Non-medical and Medical accommodation

Western University requires documentation from the medical community for students who require academic accommodation due to medical illness. Students are required to have their physician or health care provider fill out the Student Medical Certificate. Medical certificates will only be considered for students seriously affected by illness, who can not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Medical certificates may NOT be issued for minor illness like colds, non-acute vomiting or diarrhea, menstrual cramps, insomnia or for past illnesses.

If the requested accommodation is related to a death in the family, please see your Academic Counsellor directly.

If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean’s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

For further information, please see the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm.

Grade Distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Students:</th>
<th>Graduate Students:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Essay (October 10)</td>
<td>In-Class Assignment (November 21) 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Assignment (November 21)</td>
<td>Essay, 20-25 pp. (December 05) 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay, 12-15 pp. (December 05)</td>
<td>Seminar Presentation 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentation</td>
<td>Seminar Participation 15%</td>
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<td>Seminar Participation</td>
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In-Class Essay

On October 10, undergraduate students only will write an in-class essay based on the material covered to that point in the course. No notes or aids will be permitted. Graduate students will not attend the seminar that day.

In-Class Assignment

On November 21, undergraduate and graduate students will each write a 500-word letter to their Member of Parliament, laying out the case for the genocide of the Rohingya people. In their capacity as scholars of the subject of genocide, students are expected to draw on the lessons learned throughout the term, and, using examples from each of the cases studied in class, to make a forceful argument for why what is happening to the Rohingya should (or should not) be considered genocide, and what should be done. The focus of the assignment should be on the grounds for classifying the particular situation as genocide (or not) and on precedent from other cases that can be used to back up the arguments made. At the end of the assignment, students may choose to send their assignment to their Member of Parliament.
Essay

Undergraduate students will be required to write one term essay of 12-15 typed, double-spaced pages, or between 3000-3750 words. The paper must be submitted at the beginning of class on December 05. Graduate students will be required to write one term essay of 20-25 typed, double-spaced pages, or between 5000-6250 words. The paper must be submitted at the beginning of class on December 05. In all cases, students should include a word count at the bottom of the essay. The topic of the paper may be selected from the list of topics provided below. Essays must be formatted using Chicago/Turabian style, with footnotes, not in-text citations.

A late penalty of 10% per day will be applied to papers submitted at any point after the start of class on December 05.

Please note that all essays must be submitted to Turnitin, using the link provided on WebCT.

Formatting Style:

1. **Essays must be formatted using Chicago/Turabian style.**

2. **Essays must use footnotes, not in-text citations.**

Students are advised to consult a writer’s handbook when composing their essays in order to see how to format things like bibliography and footnotes. One such excellent handbook is *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian, and this book is available from the Book Store. A useful link may be found at the following url: [http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html).

Seminar Presentation

Each week, a group of two or more students will present the main points and arguments pertaining to that week’s case study, and also relating to that week’s main theme, to the class. Each presentation should be approximately 20 minutes in length, and must include a one-page, single-sided hand-out for students in the class as well as questions for discussion. As the presentation is expected to be a joint project between the students involved, all students in the group will receive the same grade. Student presenters are expected to refer to material beyond that assigned to the class.

Seminar Participation

This assessment will be based on regular contributions to the class discussion, reflecting some grasp of the relevant materials and some analytical abilities in applying those materials in the discussion. Students should consult the handout “Student Participation” on page 10, below, for criteria.
Turnitin

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).

Completion of All Requirements

The Dean’s office has laid out the following rules regarding the completion of all assignments:
• Students who fail to attend a minimum of fifty per cent of the total number of classes, without supporting medical documentation or justifiable and documented extenuating circumstances, can be barred from writing the final exam.
• Students who fail to complete all evaluation components of the course, including tutorials, without supporting medical documentation or justifiable and documented extenuating circumstances will be disqualified from appealing the course’s final grade.

Etiquette

Discussion and debate is an important component of this course. However, at times, we will be dealing with sensitive and controversial topics. Therefore, our interactions in each forum must be guided by an ethic of respect. Uncivil, disrespectful, abusive or other inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. This includes the respectful use of electronics, as detailed below.

Electronics

Electronics are increasingly an important component of the learning process.
• Computers/laptops/netbooks (and similar technologies) may not be used during the class, unless specifically permitted. Seminars are designed to promote active engagement and participation.
• All cellphones (and similar technologies) must be turned off, or set to silent ‘vibration’ mode during the duration of the class. The instructor reserves the right to ensure that you are not text-messaging, surfing the internet, or distracting any students; spot-checks will be conducted during class time.
• No digital taping (either voice or image) of the class is allowed.
• Disruptive behavior will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and may result in the suspension of laptop privileges.
Academic Dishonesty

Many different types of actions may be considered academically dishonest. These might include, although not exhaustively, the following: cheating, submission of work not authored by you, double submission, fabrication, plagiarism. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. You are advised to familiarize yourself with the guidelines set out in the Academic Handbook, Rights and Responsibilities, Scholastic Discipline - Undergrad.

Students are also advised to utilize the Library’s tools on plagiarism:
http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

Students with Disabilities

Any student with a disability is advised to contact the Coordinator for Services for Students with Disabilities in order that arrangements can be made through them to accommodate that student. The Centre for Student Development is located in UCC Suite 210; they can be reached by telephone at (519)661-2147, by email at ssc@sdcc.uwo.ca, or on the web at http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/

Mental/Emotional Distress

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Other Resources

There are many resources at Western designed to assist you in your learning. You are strongly advised to utilize these services. The Student Development Centre offers many services, including Effective Writing Programs and Learning Skills Services. The Student Development Centre is located in UCC Suite 210; they can be reached by telephone at (519)661-2147, by email at exams@sdcc.uwo.ca, or on the web at http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/. You should also become familiar with the services offered by the University Library System. The D.B. Weldon Library may be contacted by telephone at (519)661-3162 or by email at dbwref@lib.uwo.ca, or on the web at http://www.lib.uwo.ca/weldon/#!.
Course Outline by Topic:

September 05  Introduction

September 12  Historical Foundations of Genocide
- Jones ch. 1
- UN Genocide Convention
- Raphael Lemkin, Axis Rule in Occupied Europe: Laws of Occupation - Analysis of
  International Peace, 1944), 79-95.
  Available from http://www.preventgenocide.org/lemkin/AxisRule1944-1.htm
  *** Please read Section I, II and III. ***

September 19  Conceptual Foundations of Genocide
- Jones ch. 10, 11
- Naimark pp.1-11

September 26  Armenians
- Jones ch. 4
- Totten, Parsons ch.4
- Naimark ch. 1

October 03  Nazi Germany
- Jones ch. 6
- Totten, Parsons ch. 6
- Naimark ch. 2

October 10  Soviet Union
- Jones ch. 5
- Totten, Parsons ch. 5;
- Naimark ch. 3

** Undergraduates write in-class essay in second half of class; graduate student study time **
October 17  **Cambodia**  
- Jones ch. 7  
- Totten, Parsons ch. 9  

October 24  **Former Yugoslavia, Post-World War II**  
- Jones ch. 8  
- Totten, Parsons ch. 14  
- Naimark ch. 5

October 31  **Rwanda**  
- Jones ch. 9  
- Totten, Parsons ch. 13  

November 07  **Fall Reading Week—no class!**

November 14  **Canada**  

November 21  **In-class assignment: Rohingya advocacy**

November 28  **Learning to Care About Humanity**  
- Jones 16  
- Totten, Parsons Introduction

December 06  **Concluding Discussion**  
**Essays due at beginning of class**
ESSAY TOPICS

Topic I: *Case Study of a Genocide*

This topic asks you to focus on a specific case of genocide. Working from a particular definition of genocide, your task is to select a particular genocide/genocidal massacre/genocidal act/ethnic cleansing and to provide an examination of that case. (You may not write an essay based on the same topic on which you make your oral presentation during the term.) The paper, however, must not be purely descriptive. It must provide analysis about the case. Your analysis should include a brief history of the development of the situation which led to the acts of genocide (no more than 1 pp.), and should attempt to define the type of genocide that took place, based upon the definitions and reasoning provided in the course readings and elsewhere, and a look at the social-cultural and other factors which were present.

Topic 2: *Institutions dealing with Genocide*

Rather than focus on a particular case, this topic asks you to focus on an institution or process that deals with genocide/genocidal massacre/genocidal act/ethnic cleansing. This institution may be either national, regional, or international in scope, and may be either an historical or current institution. Your task is to focus upon one specific institution established specifically to deal with the crime of genocide. Your analysis should include a brief history of the development of the particular institution, and also its mandate. Does the institution you have chosen seem to have been successful in fulfilling its objectives? Has it produced any tangible successes?

Topic 3: *Legal Constructions dealing with Genocide*

This topic considers neither a particular case nor a particular institution. Rather, you are asked to focus upon a specific law or legal norm that has developed to deal with crimes of genocide/genocidal massacre/genocidal act/ethnic cleansing. You may choose to look at either a current legal construction, or one that has existed within the past two hundred years. Once you have identified the particular law, set of laws, or legal debates, is to look at an instance in which they have been used. Your analysis should include an historical account of the actions that led to its establishment, as well as an examination of the manner in which the international community views and uses this legal construction.
## STUDENT PARTICIPATION

### Participation Grading Guide

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>Always</td>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong>: leads debate; offers analysis and comments; always has ideas on theme of reading; takes care not to dominate; asks questions</td>
<td>Clearly has done and prepared questions on virtually all readings; intelligently uses this understanding and these questions in discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-13</td>
<td>Almost always</td>
<td><strong>Very Good</strong>: thoughtful comments and questions for the most part; willing, able and frequent contributor</td>
<td>Has done most readings; provides competent analysis of reading when prompted by others</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>Frequent</td>
<td><strong>Good</strong>: has basic grasp of key concepts and occasional ideas on the main theme of the reading; arguments are sporadic and at times incomplete or poorly supported; unwilling to ask questions</td>
<td>Displays familiarity with most readings, but tends not to analyze them or to relate them to the course material</td>
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<td>3-5</td>
<td>Occasional</td>
<td><strong>Somewhat Poor</strong>: remarks in class marred by misunderstandings of key concepts; seldom contributes effectively to discussion of the main theme; often digresses in unhelpful ways; sporadic</td>
<td>Actual knowledge of material is outweighed by improvised comments and remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td><strong>Poor</strong>: rarely speaks; parrots text or comments of others</td>
<td>Little or no apparent familiarity with assigned material</td>
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<td>Grading Grid</td>
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<td><strong>Argument</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Organization of the Essay</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Quality of evidence</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Communication Skills</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Use of quotations, footnotes or endnotes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creativity</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other Comments</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grade</strong></td>
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Prerequisite checking - the student’s responsibility
"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements
With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)
"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:
• the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
• the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current Western Academic Calendar http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/)
"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work
Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments
In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences
"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf"
Submission of Course Requirements
ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

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

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.
Students registered in Social Science should refer to https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty’s academic counselling office.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com)."

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

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html
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.

*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History
Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991
Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Procedures for Requesting Academic Consideration

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

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

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

Students seeking academic consideration:

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

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

Accommodation for Students with Disability.

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

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

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

Students will be allowed:
- a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April;
- a maximum of one self-reported absence between May and August.

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

- The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period;
- Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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

Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence

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