

Political Science 3388E  
**International Human Rights**  
*Fall Term 2021*

\* Winter Term 2022 will be taught by Dr. Samar El-Masri and the course outline will be provided later.

Instructor: Dr. Joanna R. Quinn  
Class Time: Wednesdays from 12:30-2:30  
Class Location: SSC 2032

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-12:00  
Office Location: SSC 4158  
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**Course Description:**

The first half of the course (fall term) will provide an *overview* of the topic of human rights, from its origins to its 21st century reality, to its various conceptions, theoretical notions, and instruments. The second half of the course (winter term) looks at *issues* of concern, abuses and potential solutions.

**Texts:**

Donnelly, Jack. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*. 3rd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013.

Goodhart, Michael. Ed. *Human Rights: Politics and Practice*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

\* e-version available through the Book Store: [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/POL3388E](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/POL3388E)

Orend, Brian. *Human Rights: Concept and Context*. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2002.

Additional readings are required. Throughout the course outline, I have listed where you may find these resources. Where no location is specified, you should use a search engine to find them on the internet. You are responsible for obtaining these additional readings yourself. If you have trouble locating them, please let me know and I will be happy to give you some guidance.

**Important Notice re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites:**

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for 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

## **Evaluation**

### **Fall Term:**

Reflections	12%
Essay	20%
Mid-Term Test	18%

## **How to think about this course**

This course is designed to introduce you to the field of international human rights, by tracing the contours of what scholars are thinking about, by outlining the major debates and issues currently underway, and by setting out the major themes and approaches of the field. What you learn in this course will provide a framework for your future studies in international human rights, and in comparative politics and international relations, more broadly.

The assignments and your evaluation in this course are designed to help you develop your critical thinking skills in ways that relate to your interests in specific areas or theories in the field of international human rights. We will cover a range of debates and issues, and while you may not agree with all of them, you should be able to discuss all of them intelligently. Your ability to accomplish these objectives will be assessed using the assignments and work outlined below.

## **Objectives**

This course has three main objectives:

First, this course is designed to outline and allow you to learn about and then assess the theories, perspectives and issues that shape the context and nature of the field of international human rights. This body of ideas 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 you develop critical thinking skills. These skills will be applied to specific issues and case studies in international human rights.

Third, the course aims to help you appreciate how power, culture and history condition and influence how you understand particular issues and events. These questions are of real consequence to the field of international human rights, but also to an understanding of the world in which we live.

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

1. Discuss different approaches to international human rights
2. Understand the divides that have catalyzed the international human rights debate
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of an international human rights response
4. Discuss a current international human rights issue in historical context
5. Analyze a current policy and political issues in international human rights

## Technical Requirements:

Parts of this course may need to be held online due to COVID-19. Students are advised of the following technical requirements for effective engagement:

- Stable internet connection
- Laptop of computer
- Working microphone
- Working webcam
- Zoom application installed

Recommended technical specifications: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html>

Western Zoom webpage, including privacy information: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>

Students are encouraged to participate and engage with content during lecture. The final part of each class will be dedicated toward class questions and discussion.

To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Please “arrive” to class on time
- Please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak
- Please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
- Remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
- Self-identify when speaking
- Remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

## **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.

## **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. You are advised to familiarize yourself with the guidelines set out in the Academic Handbook, Rights and Responsibilities, Scholastic Discipline - Undergrad. These may be found at the following url:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

You are also advised to utilize the Library's tools on plagiarism:

<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

## **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.

## **In-Class Electronics**

Electronics are increasingly an important component of the learning process.

- Computer/laptop/netbook (and similar technologies) use will be permitted *during the lecture component of each class* only, as long as it does not disrupt the learning experience of other students. The instructor and TA reserve 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.
- All cellphones (and similar technologies) must be turned off, or set to silent 'vibration' mode during the duration of the class and during tutorials.
- No digital taping (either voice or image) of the lectures is allowed.
- Disruptive behavior will be dealt with on a Case Study-by-Case Study basis and may result in the suspension of laptop privileges.

## **Course Content Note**

The field of human rights deals with disturbing events like war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and sometimes we will be discussing historical events that some students may find troubling. If you think specific material could be emotionally challenging for you, I would be happy to discuss any concerns you may have before the subject comes up in class. And if you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to course material with the class or with me individually afterwards, I welcome these discussions as an appropriate part of our scholarly work.

If you ever feel the need to step out of the classroom during a class discussion, you may always do so without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually to discuss the situation.

## **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. Western's Accessible Education office is located on the 4th floor of the Western Student Services Building (WSSB); they can be reached by telephone at (519)661-2147, by email at [aew@uwo.ca](mailto:aew@uwo.ca), or on the web at [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

## **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

## **Other Resources**

There are many resources at Western designed to assist you in your learning. You are strongly advised to utilize these services. Western's Academic Support and Engagement office offers many services, including Effective Writing Programs and Learning Skills Services. The Academic Support and Engagement office is located in Western Student Services Building (WSSB) on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor; they can be reached by telephone at (519)661-2147, by email at [ase@uwo.ca](mailto:ase@uwo.ca), or on the web at <http://academicsupport.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)661-3166 or by email at [dbwlib@uwo.ca](mailto:dbwlib@uwo.ca), or on the web at <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/weldon/index.html>.

**Course Outline by Topic (Fall Term):**

WINTER TERM READINGS AND COURSE OUTLINE TBA.

*September 08:* **Introduction to Course**

*Required Readings:*

(Today I will provide an overview of the course. There are no assigned readings.)

*September 15:* **Introduction**

*Required Readings:*

- Goodhart "Introduction"
- Orend "Introduction"

*September 22:* **Concept and History: I**

*Required Readings:*

- Goodhart chapter 1
- Donnelly chapter 5

*September 29:* **United Nations: History and Structure**

*Required Readings:*

- Donnelly chapter 2
- Karen Mingst and Margaret Karns, *The United Nations in the Post-Cold War Era*, 2nd ed. (Boulder: Westview, 2002), 16-45, (available from Web CT/OWL)
- "Universal Declaration of Human Rights"
- "International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"
- "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights"

**ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**

*October 06:* **Human Rights and International Law**

*Required Readings:*

- Goodhart chapter 4
- Donnelly chapter 11

*Case Study: Canada and climate change*

- Government of Canada, "Canada's Way Forward on Climate Change;" available from <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-action/international-collaboration.html>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

*October 13:* **Universality**

*Required Readings:*

- Orend chapter 2
- Donnelly chapter 6

*Case Study: Children and War*

- "Wars against children," and select parts of "Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children: Impact of armed conflict on children," UNICEF (1996) available from <http://www.unicef.org/graca/>

- October 20: Cultural Relativism**  
*Required Readings:*  
 - Donnelly chapter 7  
*Case Study: female circumcision*  
 - Sandra Danial, "Cultural Relativism vs. Universalism: Female Genital Mutilation, Pragmatic Remedies," *Prandium* 2.1 (Spring 2013): 1-10, available from <http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/prandium/article/viewFile/19692/16296>
- October 27: Rights vs. Duties**  
*Required Readings:*  
 - Orend chapter 5  
*Case Study: the Ogoni people of Nigeria*  
 (readings package available from WEB CT/OWL)  
**ESSAY DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**
- November 3: No class / Fall Reading Break**
- November 10: Non-Western Conceptions: Africa and Asia**  
*Required Readings:*  
 - Donnelly chapter 9 and chapter 10  
 - "The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights"  
*Case Study: caste system*  
 (readings package available from WEB CT/OWL)
- November 17: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**  
*Required Readings:*  
 - Donnelly chapter 3  
*Case Study: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Canada's Indigenous Peoples*  
 United Nations Human Rights Council, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya: Addendum: The situation of indigenous peoples in Canada*, United Nations General Assembly, 2014, A/HRC/27/52/Add.2, available from [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/SR/A.HRC.27.52.Add.2-MissionCanada\\_AUV.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/SR/A.HRC.27.52.Add.2-MissionCanada_AUV.pdf)
- November 24: Human Rights and Foreign Policy**  
*Required Readings:*  
 - Donnelly chapter 12  
*Case Study: China*  
 (readings package available from WEB CT/OWL)
- December 01: (Mis)Use of Human Rights**  
*Required Readings:*  
 - Goodhart chapter 7  
 - Ken Roth, "World Report Essay: War in Iraq: Not a Humanitarian Intervention," Human Rights Watch (Jan. 26, 2004); available from [http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related\\_material/war-in-iraq.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/war-in-iraq.pdf)  
*Case Study: Military Invasion of Iraq (2003)*
- December 08: Exam Review Session**

## Assignments

### (1) Weekly Critical Reflections (12%)

Eight times throughout the semester, students will submit a 500-word (roughly one page, single-spaced) response to a question related to that week's topic. Each critical reflection will be worth 1.5% of the student's final grade. Reflections are due before the beginning of class, and will not be accepted after class starts without medical or other accommodation.

The idea is for you to think through the ideas that come up in the readings, and for you to have a chance to reflect on those ideas before you come to class. Having a sense of what you think and why will give you a better foundation for class discussions and for material we cover in the lecture.

Students must answer that question, using material from each of the readings. Students may use parenthetical references to cite material, and do not have to provide a bibliography. Spelling and grammar will count. The student's name and student number must be clearly visible on the top right corner of the assignment.

Reflections are due on the following days, answering the following questions:

*September 22*

Provide one example of a negative right you enjoy, and one example of a positive right you enjoy. Why does this distinction between negative and positive rights matter for people to enjoy the full array of human rights.

*October 06*

How does codifying rights in treaties make a difference in how people enjoy human rights?

*October 13*

Are human rights universal? That is to say, do you think these rights are enjoyed by every human being today?

*October 20*

Protecting cultural specificity seems important. Should culture trump rights?

*November 10*

What does the Banjul Charter include that the UDHR doesn't? Why is that important?

*November 17*

Civil and political rights are sometimes easier to spot and to uphold. Are economic, social and cultural rights any more important?

*November 25*

Should governments be able to use human rights as a tool of foreign policy?

*December 01*

Should governments be held responsible for misusing human rights?



## **(2) Essay (20%)**

You will be required to write one essay of between 2250-2500 words (excluding bibliography). Essays will be due *at the beginning of class on October 27*. The topic of each paper may be selected from the list of topics provided below.

### Essay Proposal

You must provide a one-paragraph outline of your intended topic along with three annotated bibliographic citations to me by the beginning of class on September 29, as noted below, and preferably after a verbal consultation with me. Your proposal must be approved by me, or you will not be eligible to hand in an essay to me. When handed in to me, this proposal must contain both your name and student number.

### Late Penalty

The completed paper must be submitted **at the beginning of class on the due-date: October 27**. **A late penalty of 10% per day will be applied to papers submitted at any point after the class begins.**

### Turnitin

When you submit your essay, it will automatically be submitted to a plagiarism checker, Turnitin.com.

### Footnotes

Footnotes and bibliography **must** be formatted **using Chicago-style footnotes, not in-text citations**.

You are advised to consult a writer's handbook when composing your essays in order to see how to do this.

A useful link may be found at the following url:

[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html).

### Spelling and Grammatical Errors

Grammatical, spelling and other errors are not acceptable. You are responsible for your own work, and you must be careful to proofread your work before turning it in.

### Bibliography

You must attach a Bibliography to your essay. Your bibliography must include a minimum of seven academic sources. (Consult a librarian for clarification on what counts as an academic source. e.g. newspapers, magazines, and encyclopedias do not count). Failure to include at least seven academic sources will result in a grade of "F". The highest grades in this course typically go to students that consult a larger number of high-quality source materials. Consulting more than seven sources is highly recommended.

### Topics

You may write your essay based on any one of the following three topics. Note that these are intended as jumping-off points, and that you are expected to refine your topic.

1. Universality is an important principle and must be upheld at all costs. Why or why not?
2. Cultural relativism provides opportunities for the expression of faith and culture and is justified in its use. Why or why not?
3. The United Nations was established to meet the needs of a very different world, and needs an overhaul. Why or why not?

**(3) Mid-Term Test (18%)**

During the December exam period, you will write a two-hour exam based on the material covered from the first day of class to the last class in December.

## ESSAYS

### Grading Grid

Argument	
Organization of the Essay	
Quality of Evidence	
Communication Skills	
Citations (Footnotes and Bibliography)	
Other Comments	
Grade	

## **APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

### **Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

### **Essay course requirements**

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

### **Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>)

**"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

### **Duplication of work**

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

### **Grade adjustments**

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

### **Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](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](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](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)

## **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

### **A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

### **B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently.

Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they

will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History

August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto: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](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca)
- Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:

<https://westernusc.ca/your-services/>

- Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://sdc.uwo.ca/>
- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Procedures for Requesting Academic Consideration**

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:  
Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

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

Students seeking academic consideration:

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

Academic consideration **is not** normally intended for students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing

disability. These students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability.

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

### **Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence**

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



## **Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence**

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