

**Transitional Justice 2001F/
Political Science 2203F
Problems in Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction**

Fall Term 2021

Instructor: Dr. Samar El-Masri

Office Hours: By appointment

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I-Course Delivery

This course is designated as “blended,” which means that while the lectures will be posted online, we will have a weekly in-person tutorial.

The time allocated for this class is Wednesdays 1:30 to 4:30. Please use the first two hours to listen to my lectures posted on OWL. We will use **Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:40** for in-person discussion.

However, I will ask you to attend the class earlier to write a test or to listen to a guest speaker. You will be notified of these times before hand.

II-Course Description

This course introduces students to interdisciplinary studies of transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction. Students will examine key concepts and explore theoretical problems in confronting and seeking solutions to the aftermath of large-scale events of social violence.

III-How to think about this course

This course may be a valuable addition to your academic year for three reasons: First, it is a crucial building block for your studies in transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction, as it outlines the major themes and approaches in the field as well as discusses the major issues and debates that are presently examined in the literature. Second, it provides you with ample opportunity to develop your critical thinking in ways that relate to areas that are specifically of interest to you. Finally, it exposes you not only to different debates and approaches that you may not be aware of, but also to different disciplines. One of the special things about this course is that it attracts students from various disciplines and that may have a completely different perspective on issues. Discussing questions in our one-hour tutorials may help enrich your experience in this course.

IV-Objectives

This course is not only designed to outline and assess the major theories and perspectives in the field, but also develop your critical thinking skills, and your understanding of how power, culture

and history impact our understanding of particular issues and events. By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Discuss different approaches to transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction
2. Describe the key components of the field
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of a transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction response
4. Discuss a current transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction issue in historical context
5. Analyze a current policy and political issues in transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction

V-Required Texts

Because the field of transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction is new, and because it involves different areas and disciplines, there will be no one textbook that is required for this course. Instead, the reading list will involve academic articles, book chapters, and technical reports, that you will find in the “Course Readings” on this course OWL’s page. You are responsible for accessing them yourself.

VI-Grade Distribution

Participation	10%
Midterm Exam (due October 27)	20%
Essay (Nov 24)	40%
Final Exam	30%

VIII-Explaining the Components of the Course:

1-Participation

- We will conduct a weekly in-person tutorial. The tutorial, which will run for one hour, is designed to help students interact with one another, think about various questions, and try to find solutions with the help of their classmates. The importance of context will be emphasized as we move from one case study to the next. Your attendance is required, and your mark will be based on your contribution in the class.
- If for any reason, you feel that you were not able to participate as you would like, or you could have made a different point, then you are more than welcome to send me a one/two double-spaced page paper about that, which will then be corrected and counted towards your participation mark.
- As some of the issues that we deal with in this class are extremely disturbing, I encourage students who may have any concerns about a specific topic to discuss them with me before the subject comes up. I will also understand if some students choose to step out of the class as a result. While they will NOT be academically penalized, they will be responsible for any material missed.

- All our interactions should be guided by respect. Uncivil, disrespectful, abusive or any inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
- If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me in-person (before or after class), or virtually through an email, or an arranged zoom call.

2-Midterm Exam

Students will write a test that will be based on material covered from the first day of class up until the end of week seven on peacebuilding.

3-- Final Exam

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

4- Essay

You will be required to write one essay between 2250-2500 words (excluding bibliography), double-spaced, and in Times New Roman 12 pt. font. The topic of the paper may be selected from the list of topics under “VIII-COURSE OUTLINE BY TOPIC” section of this Syllabus. Students must submit their essay to OWL You need to know few things about this component of the course:

a-Late Penalty: The completed paper must be submitted on November 24 (London Ontario time). **A late penalty of 10% per day will be applied to papers submitted at any point after that date.**

b-Turnitin: Essays must be submitted to Turnitin.com, using the link on OWL. 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>).

c-Citation Style: Citations **must** be formatted using *Chicago-style 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 excellent handbook is *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian. A useful link may be found at the following url: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html>

d-Spelling and Grammatical Errors: Grammatical, spelling, and other errors are not acceptable. You are responsible for your own work, and, as such, you must be careful to proofread your work before turning it in.

e-Bibliography: You must attach a Bibliography to your essay. Your bibliography must include a minimum of four 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 four academic sources will result in a grade of “F”.** The highest grades in this course typically go to students that consult a large number of high-quality source materials. Consulting more than six sources is highly recommended.

f-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>

g-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@sdc.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/#>.

h-Non-medical and medical accommodation: Western University requires documentation from the medical community for students who require academic accommodation due to medical illness—even accommodation for medical illness of work worth less than 10% of the total course grade. 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 cannot 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 a student misses a midterm or final exam for non-medical reasons, accommodation must be sought and obtained from Academic Counselling, or else the student will receive a grade of zero. **Late essays will be subject to a penalty of 10% per day** unless accommodation is granted by Academic Counselling.

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>.

VII-IMPORTANT AND USEFUL INFORMATION:

1- Important Notice re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites: 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. (Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science)

2-Completion of All Requirements: According to the Dean's office, Students who fail to complete all evaluation components of the course, without supporting medical documentation or justifiable and documented extenuating circumstances will be disqualified from appealing the course's final grade.

3-Examinations' limitations: A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 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.

4-Students with Disabilities: Any student with a disability is advised to contact the Coordinator for Services for Students with Disabilities in order to ensure that the appropriate arrangements are made 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@sd.uwo.ca, or on the web at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>

5-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.

VIII-COURSE OUTLINE BY TOPIC:

September 8 Introduction

Required Readings:

(In this class we will do an overview of the course. There are no assigned readings.)

September 15 Understanding Peace

Required Readings:

Ho-Won Jeong, “Chapter One: Challenges for Peace,” and “Chapter Two: Concepts of Peace and Violence,” in *Peace and Conflict Studies* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000), 7-29.

Ximena Davies-Vengoechea, “A Positive Concept of Peace,” in *Keeping the Peace: Conflict Resolution and Peaceful Societies Around the World*, edited by Graham Kemp and Douglas P. Fry (New York: Routledge, 2004), 11-19.

September 22 Transitions and Democracy

Required Readings:

Arthur, Paige. “How ‘Transitions’ Reshaped Human Rights: A Conceptual History of Transitional Justice,” *Human Rights Quarterly* 31.2 (2009): 321-367

Recommended Reading:

Valerie Arnould. “Transitional Justice and Democracy in Uganda: between impetus and instrumentalization,” *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 9 issue 3 2015, pages 354-374

September 29 Addressing Colonial Harms

Required Readings:

Jennifer Balint, Julie Evans, and Nesam McMillan, “Rethinking Transitional Justice, Redressing Indigenous Harm: A New Conceptual Approach,” *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 8.2 (2014): 194-216.

Niezen, Ronald. “The Unfolding.” In *Truth and Indignation: Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013, 25-41.

October 06

The Role of the United Nations

Required Readings:

Roger MacGinty and Andrew Williams, "Chapter 5: Post-conflict reconstruction and development," in *Conflict and Development* (London: Routledge, 2009), 122-152.

James Mayall, "Chapter One: Introduction," in *United Nations Interventionism, 1991-2004*, edited by Mats Berdal and Spyros Economides (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 1-31.

Recommended readings to review the basics about the UN:

Paul Taylor and Devon Curtis, "The United Nations," in *The Globalization of World Politics: An introduction to international relations*, 6th ed., eds. John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (London: Oxford University Press, 2014), 304-319.

October 13

Humanitarian Intervention

Required Readings:

Alex Bellamy and Nicholas J. Wheeler, "Humanitarian intervention in world politics," in *The Globalization of World Politics: An introduction to international relations*, 6th ed., eds. John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (London: Oxford University Press, 2014), 479-493.

October 20

Peacebuilding

Required Readings:

Stephen Ryan, "The Evolution of Peacebuilding," *Routledge Handbook of Peacebuilding*, ed. Roger MacGinty (New York: Routledge, 2013), 25-35.

Gerald M. Steinberg, "The Limits of Peacebuilding Theory," *Routledge Handbook of Peacebuilding*, ed. Roger MacGinty (New York: Routledge, 2013), 36-53.

October 27:

Transitional Justice Mechanism: Trials

Required Readings:

Rosalind Raddatz, "Chapter 10: Tempering Great Expectations: Peacebuilding and Transitional Justice in Liberia," in *Transitional Justice*

and Peacebuilding on the Ground: Victims and Ex-Combatants edited by Chandra Lekha Sriram, Jemima Garcia-Godos, Johanna Herman, and Olga Martin-Ortega (New York: Routledge, 2013).

Padraig McAuliffe, “Transitional Justice and the Rule of Law: The Perfect Couple or Awkward Bedfellows?” *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law* 2.2 (2010): 127–154.

(MIDTERM DUE)

Recommended:

David Cohen. “Transitional Justice in Divided Germany after 1945.” In *Retribution and Reparation in the Transition to Democracy*. Ed. Jon Elster. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006, 59-88.

November 03 No class today

November 10 Transitional Justice Mechanism: Truth-Telling

Required Readings:

Priscilla Hayner, “Chapter Two: Confronting Past Crimes: Transitional Justice and the Phenomenon of Truth Commissions,”

Priscilla Hayner, “Chapter Three: Why a Truth Commission?” in *Unspeakable Truths: Confronting State Terror and Atrocity* (New York: Routledge, 2001), 10-23, 24-31.

November 17 Transitional Justice Mechanism: Reparations

Required Readings:

Roht-Arriaza, Naomi. “Reparations Decisions and Dilemmas.” *Hastings International and Comparative Law Review* 27.2 (2003-2004): 157-220.

November 24 Civil Society

Required Readings:

Roberto Belloni, “Civil Society in War-to-democracy transitions,” in *From War to Democracy: Dilemmas of Peacebuilding* edited by Anna K. Jarstad and Timothy D. Sisk (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 182-210.

Roger Duthie, “Building Trust and Capacity: Civil Society and Transitional Justice from a Development Perspective,” *Transitional Justice and Development Project*, International Center for Transitional Justice Research Unit (New York: International Center for Transitional Justice, Nov. 2009), 1-28.

(ESSAY DUE)

December 01 Gender

Required Readings:

Dyan Mazurana, “Gender and the Causes and Consequences of Armed Conflict,” in *Gender, Conflict, and Peacekeeping*, eds. Dyan Mazurana, Angela Raven-Roberts, and Jane Parpart (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005), 29-42.

Tarja Vayrynen, “Gender and Peacebuilding,” in *Palgrave Advances in Peacebuilding: Critical Developments and Approaches*, ed. Oliver P. Richmond (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), 137-153.

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin and Eilish Rooney, “Underenforcement and Intersectionality: Gendered Aspects of Transition for Women,” *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 1.3 (2007): 338-354.

ESSAY GRADING GUIDE

Argument	
Organization of the Essay	

Quality of evidence	
Communication Skills	
Use of quotations and footnotes	
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

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

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.

*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.

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.