

**Political Science 1020E Section 650**  
**The University of Western Ontario**  
**Introduction to Political Science**  
**Course Outline**

**Type:** Distance Studies (Essay) May 5 to July 25/25 (exams July 28 to July 31)

**Place:** Online/Asynchronous

**Instructor:** Dr. Robert F. Jonasson

E-mail address: rjonasso@uwo.ca (please e-mail anytime)

**Office Hours:** no in person; email any concerns

**Required Reading:** (hopefully available at U.W.O. bookstore)

1/ Andrew Heywood. Politics. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. (MacMillan, U.K.: 2025.)

**NOTE:** You may use used copies. Please try to order a physical or e-copy of the text.

POL 1020E:

**Delivery:** The course is asynchronous, which means no formal class times (i.e. no in person or Zoom classes). Materials will be posted to OWLBrightspace that you will need. There are still strict due dates on certain items, but the point is to learn the material at the rate that suits you. The weekly breakdown of topics, lectures and readings below is only suggested – you may wish to go faster or slower through the materials. Please note that asynchronous learning may not be ideal for everyone. Please respect the fact that 650 Distance level online courses are meant to offer maximum flexibility for learning, especially for those in different parts of the world or who have jobs etc. during certain hours of the day.

**Structure:** Political Science 1020E is an introductory course in the field of politics.

**Objectives:** (1) Students will learn some of the most important ideas, arguments, theories and ideologies produced in the history of political thought in the West, including power, democracy, the state, liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism and environmentalism. As well, students will focus primarily on political institutions and the political processes associated with them. The topics to be covered include the following: international relations, liberal democracy, authoritarianism/totalitarianism, parliamentary and presidential systems, political economy, political participation, political institutions and multilevel politics. (2) Students will develop the capacity to think critically about politics. In particular, students will acquire and strengthen their abilities to understand and analyze arguments on controversial political issues, such as the obligation to obey the law, the nature of justice and the good, the legitimacy of democracy, the nature of freedom, the status of dominant ideologies, the value of political participation and the workings of key political systems and institutions.

**Topics:** Readings from the Heywood textbook (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) are given below. In OWL Brightspace there are corresponding lecture topics which you should watch. However, as stated above, there are suggested weekly breakdowns – it is up to you how you learn the material.

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=N2025&courses%5B0%5D=650\\_UW/POL1020E](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=N2025&courses%5B0%5D=650_UW/POL1020E)

**OWL:** This course uses Western OWL Brightspace as a learning tool on a regular basis.

Week 1: May 5-9

Course outline and on-line information

How to write an essay (see Essay Guidelines on OWL); What is political science? (Ch.1)

Basic Concepts: Society, Gov't, Power, The State of Nature (Ch.1)

Week 2: May 12-16

Basic Concepts: Authority, Obligation, Legitimacy, Sovereignty, The State, The Nation, Nation-State, (Chs.3,4,6)

Week 3: May 20-23 (May 19 holiday)

Basic Concepts: Law, Constitutionalism, Democracy (Chs.4,13)

Week 4: May 26- 30

Ideology: What is Ideology?; The Origins of Liberalism – Classic and Modern (Ch.2)

Ideology: Liberalism: Freedom, Property, Rights (Ch.2)

Friday, May 30 – **Assignment due**

Week 5: June 2-6

Ideology: Conservatism; Fascism (Ch.2)

Ideology: Socialism, Marxism (Ch.2)

Week 6: June 9-13

International Relations: War and Terrorism, Globalization and Human Rights (Chs.18,19)

Forms of Gov't: Liberal Democracy, Types (Ch.5)

Week 7: June 16-20

Forms of Gov't: Totalitarianism, Authoritarianism (Ch.5)

Forms of Gov't: Parliamentary and Presidential Systems (Chs.14,15)

Week 8: June 23-27

Forms of Gov't: Federalism and Multi-level Governance (Ch.17)

Friday, June 27 – **Essay due**

Week 9: June 30 - July 4 (July 1 holiday)

The Political Process: Political Culture; The Media (Ch.9)

Week 10: July 7-11

The Political Process: Interest Groups; Political Parties (Chs.11,12)

Week 11: July 14-18

The Political Process: Elections and Electoral Systems (Ch.10)

Week 12: July 21-25

Representative Assemblies; The Executive (Chs.3,14); The Administration; The Judiciary (Chs.13, 16)

**Final Exam:** during exam period (TBA)

- essay format: *online, take home, open book 24 hours*

**Grade Breakdown:**

**Final Exam: 35% (TBA)**

**Essay: 50% (8-10 pages, double-spaced; due Friday, June 27/25 online submission by 11.59pm)**

**Assignment: 15% (3-5 pages, double-spaced; due Friday, May 30/25 online submission by 11.59pm)**

NOTE: All page requirements in the outline use the Times New Roman 12 standard.

**Late Penalty for Essay: 2% per working day (not including weekends); after 2 weeks late (including weekends), the paper gets a zero; late penalty goes by e-file submission time; computer breakdown is not an excuse; you must keep a backup copy of your paper (e-file);**

**Length:** 8-10 pages double-spaced minimum

**Due date: Friday, June 27/25 11.59pm – to be put into OWL Brightspace – Assessments - Assignments – Essay (do not wait until the last minute – lates will be strictly enforced; if you submit the wrong file, you must e-mail me the correct one before the deadline)**

**Files:** the e-files must be in Word or PDF format and must have your last name as the start of the file name

**Lost Assignments:** It is your responsibility to have other copies of your paper.

**Bibliography:** You must include a bibliography.

**Citations and other items:** See Essay Guidelines document on OWL.

### **Essay questions/ thesis statements**

Choose one as the core argument of your paper (you may take the reverse of each).

- 1/ The European Union has mainly been a success as an international organization.
- 2/ The Russian Federation is an example of an authoritarian regime.
- 3/ Courts in Canada are too activist and are usurping the powers of elected legislatures in Canada.
- 4/ The Canadian Senate does not adequately carry out its functions and should be abolished.
- 5/ Nigeria should change its electoral system at the federal level to another system.
- 6/ Marxist-Leninism was a radical departure from the ideas of Karl Marx.
- 7/ Recent Canadian Prime Ministers, of both major parties, have tended to be authoritarian in relation to their party members in the House of Commons.
- 8/ Offence as a 'hate crime' is deeply problematic for the right to free speech.

**NOTE: You must do one of the above.**

**IMPORTANT: SEE ESSAY GUIDELINES DOCUMENT ON OWL FOR MORE INFO**

Please note that this assessment is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with an extension to hand in the essay without any late penalty which is based on an extension period recommended by the Academic advisors...

## 1020E ASSIGNMENT

**Length:** 3-5 pages double-spaced minimum

**Due date: Friday, May 30/25 11.59pm– to be put into OWL Brightspace – Assessments - Assignments – personal ideology (do not wait to the last minute – lates will be strictly enforced; if you submit the wrong file, you must e-mail me the correct one before the deadline)**

**Lost Assignments:** It is your responsibility to have other copies of your paper (e-file)

**Bibliography:** not needed

**Citations:** not needed

You must do 1 of the 3 videos posted to Brightspace and answer the questions/themes below.

### VIDEO 1

REMEMBER AFRICVILLE (National Film Board of Canada, 1991)

A liberal society is one in which citizens are supposed to be equal before the law. In liberal Canada, this has not always been the case, as this video on Africville, an old predominately Canadian Black neighbourhood of Halifax, Nova Scotia, shows. This community was considered a poor slum and largely torn down by the city of Halifax in the early 1970s. Most of the population moved into other sections of Halifax, including public housing projects. Residents of Africville were not properly consulted about the move and many felt pressured by the city and other officials. Compensation for the homes owned by residents was generally very low. What happened to Africville is likely a clear case of discrimination against Black Canadians, even though what happened there is not generally well known.

Themes in the video to consider:

- 1/ Why were residents of Africville not historically given proper roads, sewage etc. when they paid taxes to the city?
- 2/ Even though many had good intentions in relocating residents, why were residents not better consulted and why was their formal consent not sought out?
- 3/ Did officials then underestimate the value of the dignity of home ownership and community?

**QUESTION: What are your impressions of the video?**

NOTE: The Africville Church has recently been rebuilt as a museum (I visited it in 2022 – the video plays in the museum in certain parts).

### VIDEO 2

Animal Farm film (1999)

This 1999 film is based on the novel by George Orwell entitled Animal Farm (1945). Orwell, though a socialist and a critic of capitalism, was deeply disillusioned by the socialism of the

Marxist-Leninist Soviet Union. The novel is really an allegory of the USSR using humans and farm animals to make his observations. The film follows the novel fairly closely.

Themes in the video to consider:

- 1/ Does power need to be properly checked no matter its form or ideology?
- 2/ Note how the control of language/communication is a key feature of dictatorship.
- 3/ Can a true socialist revolution happen?

**QUESTION: What are your impressions of the video?**

### VIDEO 3

Chechnya – A war erased by Putin (2021)

This documentary is based on the actions of V. Putin in Chechnya, a largely Muslim province of Russia, over the last 20 years or so. In the second Chechnyan war (1999 to early 2000s), Russian leader Putin brutally crushed a Chechnyan independence movement and claimed to be fighting Islamic terrorists. The death toll was likely in the tens of thousands – even though Chechnya only had a population of about 1 million people. The capital city of Grozny was levelled. A Chechnyan puppet regime, loyal to Moscow, rules in a dictatorship since the war and receives many funds to placate the people. The current actions of Putin in Ukraine show a striking similarity to what he did in Chechnya.

Themes in the video to consider:

- 1/ Can independence movements be truly crushed by force and/or bribery?
- 2/ Does this example prove that Russia is not a liberal-democracy?
- 3/ What might this example mean for Ukraine?

**QUESTION: What are your impressions of the video?**

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1/ This is not a formal essay, so you do not need a formal introduction and conclusion.
- 2/ However, write in complete sentences and paragraphs.
- 3/ The Essay Guidelines document may give you some help here, so consult it, but remember this assignment is not an essay.
- 4/ This assignment is pass/fail: if you do the above properly, you will get 15/15. If it is not done correctly, you will get 0/15. **I will not return these assignments but I will let you know if there are any serious concerns.** I will post the grades to OWL by early June. If it is late, it gets 8/15 (if done properly). The final date for late submission is July 25/25 by 11.59pm

Students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will not be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with an extension to hand in the essay without any late penalty which is based on an extension period recommended by the Academic advisors...

## COURSE PROCEDURES

1/ **E-Mail:** You may e-mail me at [rjonasso@uwo.ca](mailto:rjonasso@uwo.ca) anytime. I will check e-mail several times a day Monday to Saturday (not including any holidays) – from 10am to 6pm. I will endeavour to answer your e-mails within several hours during the above period (from 6pm to 10am, you may e-mail, but I will take longer to respond). There may be some exceptions to the above, but I will try to stick to this schedule. Please always be courteous.

2/ **Questions:** Ask questions intelligently. Do not ask questions for the sake of asking them (i.e. to show ‘interest’, to ‘stick out’ etc.). Please ask specific questions about the topics; questions like ‘can you explain this topic to me?’ are too broad. I cannot tutor each student obviously. Questions about course material can usually be answered in this course outline or on other documents. Of course, ask away! I’m especially glad to answer thoughtful questions.

3/ **Course Notes:** These are on OWL Brightspace. They are now the most detailed ever. They are crucial to what I want you to know. The textbook is excellent but use it to illuminate the material in the notes (you must read it though!). Material in the textbook not covered in the notes will not be tested (even if I still hope you will read it!). If the notes and text disagree, go with me. Professor Heywood is not teaching this course. I have placed all the notes together by topics (in order). How you go about learning them is up to you, but the outline is suggesting a certain weekly breakdown.

4/ **Lecture files:** These audio/visual files will be posted in OWL Brightspace and are like my usual in class lectures (mainly spontaneous, unscripted) and are relatively long. How you go about learning them is up to you, but the outline is suggesting a certain weekly topic breakdown. They help explain the course notes.

5/ **Shorter lecture files:** These short audio files, also posted in OWL Brightspace, are read from scripts and may help you as well but are not as detailed as the lecture files.

6/ **Grading:** All grade values in the course outline are ‘set in stone’. There will be no re-weighting or bell-curving. No extra assignments will be given. No items will be omitted from the final grade.

The University of Western Ontario Senate has adopted a set of grade descriptors which explain the meaning of grades assigned in all university courses:

- A+ 90-100% One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
- A 80-89% Superior work which is clearly above average
- B 70-79% Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
- C 60-69% Competent work, meeting requirements
- D 50-59% Fair work, minimally acceptable
- F below 50% Fail

7/ **Appeals:** You may ask me to revisit your grades, but be aware that I mark carefully! YOU MUST PUT ALL CONCERNS IN WRITING. I will only change a grade if you prove to me that I am in error about certain pieces of factual information in your assignment, paper or exam. Please remember that I do not give grades according to your personality - try not to be

personally offended by what you consider a poor grade (indeed, it is difficult to get to know students in an on-line course in any case). An appeal must go to me first. Your grade may go up, stay the same or go down (I would give then you an average of the old grade and the new grade). Your grade may go down if I discover critical things I missed the first time.

NOTE: Do not assume your past (eg. past grades, experience level, age) is the key to your future performance. Profs assume everyone wishes high grades. Please do not indicate to the prof that you need or expect a certain grade in the course.

**8/ Due dates:** All due dates (eg. essays, assignments, tests, exams) in the course outline are 'set in stone', unless they are moved to a later date by the instructor. Under no condition will due dates be made *earlier* than the dates indicated in the course outline.

**9/ Extensions:** As indicated in the policy of the dept., there are some legitimate excuses which may allow students to get limited extensions for essays, tests and exams. **ALL EXCUSES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTE** (eg. doctor's note) which is shown/sent to **Academic Advising**. Dates must be present to indicate the time period the student was affected. The Instructor must be notified by **Academic Advising** within 2 weeks of the missed essay or test/exam. **I must have the clear approval of Academic Advising for any extension which requires this office (the essay and final exam).** The permission must be produced immediately in the case of the final exam. If an extension is warranted, the prof and the student will negotiate a time frame for submission. This time frame cannot be just what the student wants.

**10/ Problems with OWL/Internet:** If OWL is officially down for all students generally for a period of more than 12 hours on the day something is due, I will permit an extension to all students – generally, the next day. However, short problems cannot justify this, even to the deadline itself. My advice is do not wait to submit work to 11.59pm on due days! *Personal computer/internet/OWL issues are not valid grounds for an excuse.*

**11/** If you are a student with a serious concern, whether valid or not, and you are unable to keep up with the course for a long period of time, the prof strongly advises that you drop the course. Students who get too far behind generally do not finish in any case or receive an uncharacteristically low grade. Sometimes unfortunate events occur in our lives; try to persevere, but if you cannot, it is no shame to reduce your course load in certain situations.

**12/** Please do not ask the instructor for final grades (or final exam grades). These must be released by the Registrar's Office first.

**13/ NOTE: the following updated policy has been in effect for all reference requests since August 1, 2021 for past or current students**

I will give students basic references (for jobs, student exchange programs etc.) if their grade is above 75% in a class in which I have taught them (final grade). **For all post-graduate references (law school, grad school, teachers' college etc.) and scholarships, students must have completed at least 3 courses (half or full) with me beyond 1020E and have a grade of 85% or better (as an average in the courses). If students took 1020E with me, they may or may not factor the grade in this class into their average, but they will need 2 more classes (half or full).** However, good character is an important consideration for promotion as well. I do not promote opportunists (eg. those who ask for higher grades

without merit) or those with 'entitlement' attitudes. Make sure you give me at least 3 weeks notice for any deadlines and always give me all forms and postage. **I will do a maximum of 4 paper/online references for a student in a term.**

## **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.

## **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

**Note:** Missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

## **Accommodation and Accessibility**

### **Religious Accommodation**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the

Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

## **Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## **Academic Policies**

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

During exams/tests/quizzes, no electronic devices (e.g. a phone, laptop, iPad) are allowed and must be powered down and stored out of reach.

**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).

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>).

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

If a course uses remote proctoring, please be advised that you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including

some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of a course with remote proctoring will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

<https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

## Support Services

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.uwo.ca/ssac/)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

## 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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