

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science

POLITICS 1020E 002 Day:
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE
FIRST TERM COURSE OUTLINE:
SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2019

Professor: Nigmendra Narain
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Office: Social Sciences Centre, Room 4149
Office Hours: Tues 2-3, Wed 4-5, Thurs 2-3
Class Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 11:30am – 1:00 pm
Location: North Campus Building 101



Course Objectives:
What will you learn in this Course?



(1) In the first term, 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, freedom, justice, liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism, and ecologism. In the second term, students will focus primarily on political institutions and the political processes associated with them. The topics to be covered include the following: the state, regime types: democracy and authoritarianism, political economy, political participation, political institutions, and multilevel politics.

(2) In both terms, students will develop the capacity to analytically and critically think about politics. In particular, they will acquire and strengthen their abilities to: understand and analyze arguments in political texts; connect and assess them in light of current political debates; and, defend clear positions on potentially controversial political issues, such as the obligation to obey the law, the nature of justice, the legitimacy of democracy, the nature of a free society, the status of the dominant ideologies of our time, the value of political participation, and the central political institutions in the modern world.



Students will achieve objective (1) by attending lectures and tutorials regularly and by keeping up with the readings in the required course texts. Students will achieve objective (2) by writing argumentative essays, participating in tutorial discussions, and taking four exams throughout the year. The discussions and writing assignments, along with your reading and lecture attendance, will provide the practice needed to succeed in the exams.

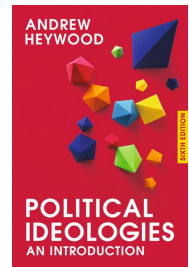
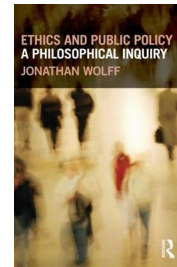
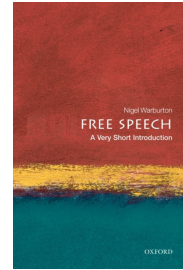
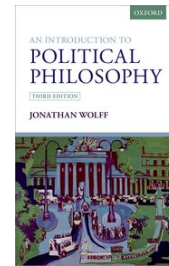
First Term Course Texts: What must you read?

Wolff, Jonathan. *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Third Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Warburton, Nigel. *Free Speech: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
(Note: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy* and Warburton, *Free Speech* are sold together for a special price at the UWO Bookstore)

Wolff, Jonathan. *Ethics and Public Policy: A Philosophical Inquiry*, London and New York: Routledge, 2011.

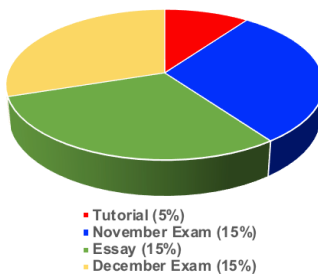
Heywood, Andrew. *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*, Sixth Edition. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.



First Term Course Requirements: How are you graded?

The course consists of two lectures and one tutorial meeting per week. Your grade for Term 1 will be determined as described below and is *only half* of your final course grade.

Term 1 Grade Composition



Tutorial Participation	5%
November Exam	15%
Essay	15%
December Exam	<u>15%</u>
	50%

Learning Outcomes: What are the assignments trying to teach you?

Assignment	Learning Outcomes
Tutorial Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize the importance of listening Communicate verbally in an analytic and clear fashion An awareness of the extent and limits of one's own knowledge, informed by exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience

Essays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational skills that contribute to scholarly and personal independence • Well-developed research skills, such as those articulated by the Political Science Research Competency Guidelines adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries • Communicate in written format in an analytic and clear fashion • Situate knowledge historically and contextually • Assess evidence critically • Ethical dimensions of problem identification and methodology
Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of diverse theories and approaches • Understanding of methods; knowledge of epistemological approaches and ontological diversity • Communicate in written format in an analytic and clear fashion • Situate knowledge historically and contextually • Assess evidence critically • How power, culture and history condition knowledge formation • Understand the ambiguity, uncertainty, ubiquitous and controversial nature of politics

First Term Key Dates:
What dates are most important?

- Classes begin: Thurs Sep 5
- Last Day to Add Full Course: Fri Sep 13
- Fall Reading Week: Mon Nov 4 – Fri Nov 10
- Fall Term Classes end: Dec 5
- Fall Term Study Days: Dec 6 – Dec 7
- December Exam period: Dec 8 – Dec 19



Lecture Rules:
How may we be courteous and enjoy lectures?

1. *When should you arrive?*
Come to the class by 11:30am. Given the large number of students, we need extra time for entering and settling into the classroom.
2. *When does Lecture start?*
Lectures will start by 11:40am so be seated and *quiet* by then.
3. *What if you're late?*
Enter by the doors at the top of NCB. Please avoid coming in through the lower doors as it distracts your classmates.

4. *Is there a break?*

We usually will take a short break 12:10pm-12:20pm.

5. *When does the lecture finish?*

Lectures will end by 1:00pm. Please don't leave before the lecture is over: shuffling along the aisles & rustling your papers & chatting with your friends is very distracting. *If you have to leave early*, please sit close to an exit.

6. *Why shouldn't you talk, watch videos, Facebook, etc., during Lectures?*

You will miss important information for the exam. You are likely bothering your classmates & friends trying to pay attention.

7. *May we take notes on a laptop, iPad, smartphone during Lectures?*

Sure; while research shows those taking notes via pen-and-paper generally do better, it's really about actively listening in lectures and engaging with the concepts, ideas, examples, etc., while taking notes; if you choose to distract yourself – whether on your technology or while using pen-and-paper – you will probably do not do well in the course.

8. *Can you record lectures?*

Generally, no. If there is a particular issue or a necessitated accommodation, do talk to me.

9. *Should you write down everything on the slides and said in lecture?*

Take notes actively: see what's on the slide, listen to my explanations, examples, connections, analysis, etc. Don't just take 'dictation'; figure out what's emphasized.

10. *Should you participate and ask questions in lectures?*

Yes, please do. When I pose a question in class, please do raise your hand to participate. You can also ask questions in lecture; note that if a question cannot be answered in class, then email it to me or speak to me during break or after lecture.

**** Participation is an important part of active learning ****



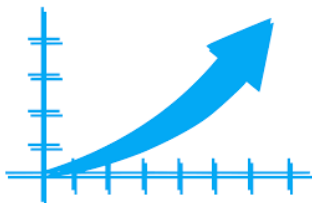
Tutorials:

What are they? Why attend & participate? What's the impact on my course grade?

Tutorials are small group meetings, led by a Teaching Assistant (TA), to discuss weekly topics, share thoughts on the Readings, and encourage public speaking skills in a supportive and constructive environment.

More tutorial details, such as discussion questions, conduct, grading and questions, will be provided in the Poli Sci 1020E Tutorial document.





Note: 10% of your course grade is based on Tutorials
Good tutorial attendance & participation leads to doing better on the essay (learning from the TA), better grades on exams (knowing tutorial questions' answers) and, most significantly, overall better course grade (possibly from 72% to 82%).
Participation in tutorial is an important part of active learning.

OWL Website: Why should I check this regularly?

To enter our OWL website, go to <http://owl.uwo.ca> to look for your "POLISCI 1020E" tab. On this website, you will find information about the class, grades, tutorial information, links to other resources, and more. **Please check our Class OWL site regularly.**



Schedule of First Term Lectures and Tutorials: What topics are we covering? What do we read? When are assignments due?

Week 1

- Th Sep 5 – Lecture 1: What is Political Science? Why Study it? Why does Politics matter?
Introduction to the Course
→ Read: *No readings*

Week 2

- Tu Sep 10 – Lecture 2: What is Politics, Power, and Authority?
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Introduction, 1-5
Th Sep 12 – Lecture 3: The State of Nature: Hobbes
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 1, 6-17

No Tutorials this week

Week 3

- Tu Sep 17 – Lecture 4: The State of Nature: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Anarchism
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 1, 17-33
Th Sep 19 – Lecture 5: Justifying the State: The State, Political Obligation & the Social Contract
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 2, 34-49
Tutorial 1: What is Free Speech?
→ Read: Nigel Warburton, *Free Speech: A Very Short Introduction*, 1-41

Week 4

- Tu Sep 24 – Lecture 6: Justifying the State: Utilitarianism, the Principle of Fairness
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 2, 49-61
- Th Sep 26 – Lecture 7: (1) What Democracy Is (2) Plato Against Democracy
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 3, 62-77

Tutorial 2: Offense and Censorship

→ Read: Warburton, *Free Speech: A Very Short Introduction*, 42-80

Week 5

- Tu Oct 1 – Lecture 8: Democracy: Intrinsic and Instrumental Reasons
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 3, 77-103
- Th Oct 3 – Lecture 9: The Place of Liberty: The Liberty Principle, Freedom of Thought and Discussion, Harm to Others
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 4, 104-114

Tutorial 3: Free Speech and the Internet

→ Read: Warburton, *Free Speech: A Very Short Introduction*, 81-104

Week 6

- Tu Oct 8 – Lecture 10: The Place of Liberty: Justifying the Liberty Principle, Problems with Liberalism
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 4, 114-33
- Th Oct 10 – Lecture 11: The Distribution of Property: Liberty, Inequality, and Locke on Property
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 5, 134-44

Tutorial 4: How to Write an Essay

→ Check OWL site for the relevant materials & readings

Week 7

- Tu Oct 15 – Lecture 12: The Distribution of Property: The Market, Rawls on Justice
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 5, 144-70; Wolff, *Ethics and Public Policy*, Ch. 8, 170-190
- Th Oct 17 – Lecture 13: The Distribution of Property: Rawls and his Critics
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, Chapter 5, 170-78

Tutorial 5: Scientific Experiments on Animals

→ Read: Jonathan Wolff, *Ethics and Public Policy*, 1-36

Week 8

- Tu Oct 22 – Lecture 14: Justice: For Everyone, Everywhere?
→ Read: Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, 179-181 & 188-215
- Th Oct 24 – Lecture 15: Ideology and Ideologies
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 1, 1-23

Tutorial 6: Gambling

→ Read: Wolff, *Ethics and Public Policy*, 37-60

Week 9

- Tu Oct 29 – Lecture 16: Liberalism 1
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 2, 24-42
- Th Oct 31 – Lecture 17: Liberalism 2
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 2, 42-61

Tutorial 7: Drugs

→ Read: Wolff, *Ethics and Public Policy*, 61-82

November Exam:

Saturday November 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)

Fall Reading Week: No Lectures or Tutorials this week – Nov 4-8

Week 10

- Tu Nov 12 – Lecture 18: Conservatism
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 3, 62-94
- Th Nov 14 – Lecture 19: Socialism 1
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 4, 95-114

Tutorial 8: Safety

→ Read: Wolff, *Ethics and Public Policy*, 83-108

Term 1 Essay:

Friday November 15 11:00am – 5:00pm

Week 11

- Tu Nov 19 – Lecture 20: Socialism 2
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 4, 114-136
- Th Nov 21 – Lecture 21: Fascism
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 7, 194-218

Tutorial 9: Crime and Punishment

→ Read: Wolff, *Ethics and Public Policy*, 109-127

Week 12

Tu Nov 26 – Lecture 22: Feminism
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 8, 219-244 and Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, 181-188

Th Nov 28 – Lecture 23: Green Ideology
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 9, 245-273

Tutorial 10: Health

→ Read: Wolff, *Ethics and Public Policy*, 128-145

Week 13

Tu Dec 3 – Lecture 24: Multiculturalism
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 10, 274-298

Th Dec 5 – Lecture 25: Islamism
→ Read: Heywood, Chapter 11, 299-323

Tutorial 11: Disability

→ Read: Wolff, *Ethics and Public Policy*, 146-169

Important Information & Rules About the Course: What are some general rules governing this course?

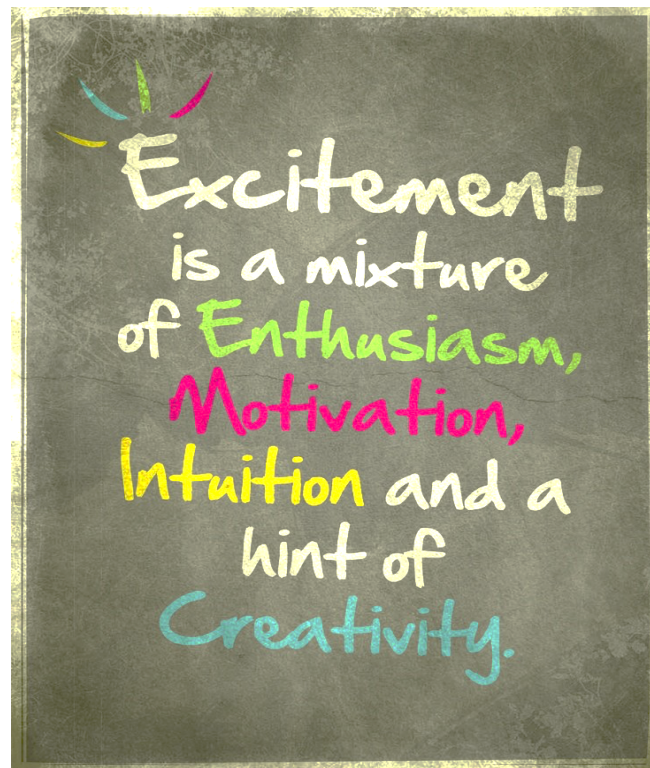
1. Necessary conditions for passing this course: you must **submit Term 1 and Term 2 essays**, and **write all 4 exams** for the course. If you miss the late submission deadlines or make-up exam dates, contact me (nnarain@uwo.ca) **immediately**. If you do not meet these conditions, then *you will receive a failing grade for the course*.
2. Pre-requisites and Anti-Requisites:
Prerequisites: none
Anti-requisites: the former Politics 020E and 021F-026G
Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an 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 prerequisites, 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*
3. USE your UWO/Western email account: Send and receive emails by the UWO email system so that your information is confidential and secure. Also, your non-UWO email may

get caught in spam, etc., and may not get a response or review.

4. Non-medical and medical accommodation: Students should check out the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>). For assignments worth 10% or more, documentation must be submitted by the student directly to *their* appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the Instructor or TA, and the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted. Any non-medical absences or absences for assignments worth less than 10%, will be dealt with by the Instructor on a case-by-case basis, and may include consultation with the Department of Political Science, Academic Counsellor and/or the Deans' offices. For tutorials, note that only 8 out of 10 tutorials are considered for the grade, so 2 tutorial absences are provided, and *NO further* accommodation without medical documentation will be provided.
5. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices: NO electronics devices are allowed during tests and examinations.
6. Statement on 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:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
7. Concerning Turnitin: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."
Also check:
<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>
8. Multiple-Choice Exam format checking software: "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."
Also check:
<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>

9. Support Services: “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.”
10. Respectful conduct and engagement: Note conduct should accord with the University of Western Ontario Student Code of Conduct, which can be accessed as a PDF from: http://studentexperience.uwo.ca/student_experience/studentconduct.html.
In general, please be respectful of and courteous to yourself, me, our TAs, your class colleagues, and others during discussions and other course engagements.
11. *Please also read the Appendices which follow after this page.*

*Approach us with your questions or concerns:
your TA and I want to help
you learn, improve & do your best. ☺
Enjoy the Course!*



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.