

**Western University**  
**Department of Political Science**



**Political Science 2144a**  
**Politico-tainment**  
**& Political (Con)Science**  
**Fall 2025**



**Course Description**

Electronic election tampering to elect a US President? 2012's *Scandal*'s opening plot thread. President Trump? *The Simpsons*' predicted it 18 years ago in an episode in which Lisa Simpson takes over as US president after "inheriting a budget crunch from President Trump". While comedian Groucho Marx supposedly said, "I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book", this has long been replaced with Homer Simpson's triumphant pronouncement: "When will I learn? The answers to life's problems ... They're on TV!" Arguably, where Machiavelli's *Prince* was in the vein of Mirror Writings to Great Leaders, undoubtedly, shows like *House of Cards*, *This Hours has 22 Minutes*, *The Simpsons*, *Scandal*, *Designated Survivor*, *The Good Wife*, *Veep*, *Parks & Rec*, *Blackstone*, etc., are the contemp(t)orary Mirror Television to politicians and their activities (Trump's tweets about shows like *Saturday Night* or *Blackish*, for example) and society in general. Furthermore, television is one of the means by which the pulse of politics and society is measured by political actors, and television can push changing & challenging of beliefs, values, traditions, prejudices, policies, laws, etc., while also forcing action by political actors, especially through imagining political possibilities in fiction not found in reality ... as yet. This course will critically examine politics and television, focussed on Canada and the US politics-focussed shows. It will primarily consider three main categories of political shows: political satire, political comedy, and political drama. It will also generally overview Indigenous TV and politics.



*NOTE: as per the advisories in all the Source motion picture & sound materials for this course, Source materials and lecture videos may involve graphic language, adult situations, nudity, violence, and other cautionary and advisory aspects.*



**Learning Outcomes**

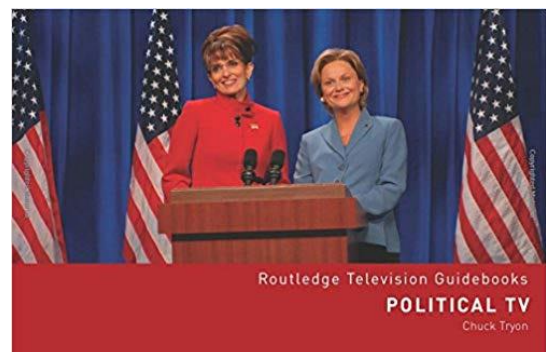
- Recognize political messaging on television
- Characterize & explain political content in television and streaming shows
- Analyze, critique & evaluate political analysis presented on television and streaming shows

### Requisite & Anti-Requisites

- Pre-requisites: none.
- Anti-requisites: Political Science 2144a/b and Political Science 2192a/b (*only if it was 2192a/b Special Topics: Politicotainment course/version*)
- "Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for 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*
- "Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, and does not have written special permission from his or her Dean to enroll in the course, the University reserves the right to cancel the student's registration in the course. [The University may also choose not to adjust your fees, such as not providing you a refund for the course.] This decision may not be appealed." (Western University Academic Calendar)

## Course Materials

Our textbook is Chuck Tryon's *Political TV* and you can get it from the class OWL site, and other readings will also be posted on OWL. Suggestions for particular episodes or shows will be made as appropriate, but you are encouraged to explore the shows listed in the Course Outline at your leisure.



## Evaluation



- All Tests and Exams are online via the OWL site
- Mid-Term Test: 50%
- Final Exam: 50%
- Tests and Exams cover Readings and Lecture videos for the weeks designated for that particular test or exam

## Course Schedule

0. Sep 5: Introduction to the Course – get settled in and check out the OWL site
1. Sep 8: Understanding the Relationship between Politics & TV
  - Tryon "Introduction: Political TV and Mediated Citizenship", 1-22 [21]
2. Sep 15: Political News: Conventions & Advertising
  - Tryon, "1: Selling Politics: Advertising after Citizens United", 25-39 [24]
  - McKinney, Mitchell S. & Matthew L. Spialek, "Political Debates", *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Communication Research Methods*, Sage, 2017, 1-8 [7]
  - Consider: recent political conventions & ads
3. Sep 22: Political News or Shows with Politics?
  - Tryon, "2: Political News in the Post-Network Era", 40-69 [29]
  - Matthei, Tamara, et al. "Political Learning through Entertainment – Only an Illusion?: How Motivations for Watching TV Political Talk shows Influence Viewers' Experiences." *Journal of Media Psychology*, vol. 25, no. 4, 2013, pp. 171-179 [8]
  - Consider: network news outlets, online news sources, Newsroom
4. Sep 29: Political Satire: Most Watched not-so-Fake News?
  - Tryon, "3: Fake News and Political Satire", 71-106 [35]
  - Tinic, Serra, "Speaking 'Truth' to Power? Television Satire, Rick Mercer Report, and the Politics of Place and Space", *Satire TV*, Eds. Jonathan Gray, Jeffrey Jones & Ethan Thompson, New York University Press, 2009, 167-186 [19]
  - Consider: The Daily Show, The Colbert Report, Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, Real-time with Bill Maher, The Nightly Show Royal Canadian Air Farce, This Hour has 22 Minutes, Rick Mercer Report, BeavertonTV
5. Oct 6: Political Satire: Sketchy Comedy?
  - Tryon, "4: Comedy and the Political Spectacle", 107-121 [14]
  - Consider: Saturday Night Live, Key & Peele, Inside Amy Schumer, Baron VonSketch Show
6. Oct 20: Political Satire: Situation Comedies
  - Tryon, "4: Comedy and the Political Spectacle", 121-134 [13]
  - Consider: Parks & Recreation, Veep, SpinCity, Dan for Mayor, The Mayor



**Mid-Term Test – Oct 26 Test 1 5-7pm: 2 hours**  
**Covers Weeks 1-6; 120 multiple-choice questions**

- Further details, rules, directions, cautions, etc., will be provided on the OWL site, and it is your responsibility to read and follow them as well
- 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
- As well, this Test is a Designated Assessment exemption from “Undocumented Absence” Academic Consideration:
    - designated as exempt from “undocumented absence” academic consideration
    - Per Office of the Registrar FAQ “When CAN'T I use an undocumented absence? ... Undocumented absences also cannot be used for the “designated assessment” in each course.”  
([https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/index.html#cannot](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html#cannot))
    - Per Senate regulation “Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs”, under “Policy”: “Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. In such cases, the instructor must provide the student with another opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in the content evaluated by the missed assessment within the time frame of the course.”, and note that our course is a full-year course so each term is ‘half-course weight’  
[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf))
  - Documented Absence Academic Consideration: to request academic consideration for your medical, varsity sport, or other documented matter, you should read the Registrar’s Academic Consideration page [https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/index.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html) and go through their Student Absence Portal to request such academic consideration to write the Make-up Mid-Term Test
  - If you don’t have documented grounds for academic consideration, e.g. you slept-in or you forgot about the test, you may write the Make-up Test with a – 10% penalty applied
  - Make-up Mid-Term Test dates:
    - Tues Oct 28 5-7
    - Thurs Oct 30 5-7
    - Sat Nov 1 5-7
    - You will ONLY be provided an alternative to these times IF you have academic obligations like a class, another exam or test, etc., during that time and that conflict is verifiable by me
  - If you are waiting to sort out Academic Consideration, etc., do write the Make-up Mid-Term on one of the Make-up Mid-Term dates and the penalty can be removed later
  - You must write the Mid-Term Test or Make-up Mid-Term Test in one set sitting; you are not allowed to write the exam over multiple sittings, etc.
  - Unless verified by WTS as an OWL-system issue, computer-related problems or issues will not be grounds for academic consideration for writing the Make-up Mid-Term
  - If you are accommodated with test or exam accommodations through Accessible Education (AE), you should check the OWL site and your email for

your particular AE test details as all AE tests and exams are conducted by me on the OWL site and not through Accommodated Exam services

- Ensure your Counsellor has posted your Accommodated Exam verification to the Registrar's ExtraNet
- Updates to AE test and exam information will be made via the OWL site so no need to register with Accommodation Exams or email me directly *unless* you have not received verification 48 hours before the test or exam
- If you do not want to write the AE version of a test or exam, you will need to email me at least 24 hours in advance to moved into the main test or exam

7. Oct 27: Political Drama: Principled Leaders

- Tryon, "Political Process Melodramas and Serial Narrative", 137-146, 154-163 [18]
- Consider: The West Wing, Designated Survivor, The Good Wife, Madam Secretary, Borgen

READING WEEK November 3-9



8. Nov 3: Political Drama: Tortured Leaders

- Tryon, "Political Process Melodramas and Serial Narrative", 146-154 [9]
- Consider: Scandal, House of Cards, Blackstone

9. Nov 10: Political Drama: National Security

- Tryon, "Surveillance Culture: Melodramas of National Security", 165-183 [18]
- Consider: 24, Homeland, The Americans, The Blacklist, Berlin Station, The Night Manager, Jack Ryan

10. Nov 17: Political Drama: Crime & Legal Dramas

- Quinn, Laura. "The Politics of Law and Order." *Journal of American & Comparative Cultures*, vol. 25, no. 1-2, 2002, pp. 130-133 [4]
- Tasker, Yvonne, "Television Crime Drama and Homeland Security: From *Law & Order* to "Terror TV"", *Cinema Journal*, vol 51, no. 4, Summer 2012, pp. 44-65 [21]
- Consider: Law & Order series, The Wire, Chicago PD

11. Nov 24: Political Cartoons & Superhero Shows

- Greene, Doyle, "Fair and Balanced Satire: Against The Simpsons", *Politics and the American Television Comedy*, 200-211 [10]
- Curtis, David & Gerald Erion, "South Park and the Open Society", *South Park & Philosophy*, Ed. Robert Arp, 112-120 [8]
- Costello, Matthew J; Worcester, Kent. "The Politics of the Superhero: Introduction", *PS: Political Science & Politics*; Washington Vol. 47, Issue 1, (Jan 2014): 85-89 [4]



- Williams, Kevin D. "(R)Evolution of the Television Superhero: Comparing Superfriends and Justice League in Terms of Foreign Relations." *The Journal of Popular Culture*, vol. 44, no. 6, 2011, pp. 1333-1352 [19]
- Consider: The Simpsons, Family Guy, South Park, American Dad, The Flash, The Green Arrow, Supergirl, Black Lightning, Legends of Tomorrow

## 12. Dec 1: Politics of Indigenous Television Shows

- Government of Canada, "Delivering on Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action: Media and reconciliation" August 2021 [1]  
<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524505692599/1557513408573>
- Horton, Adrian. 'It's a completely new day': the rise of Indigenous films and TV shows", *The Guardian*, Sep 03, 2022. [17]  
<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/sep/02/its-a-completely-new-day-the-rise-of-indigenous-films-and-tv-shows>
- Harris, Kirby "The history of Indigenous representation in film and television", *The Queens-University Journal*, November 13, 2020. [5]
- Knopf, Kerstin. 2010. "Sharing Our Stories with All Canadians: Decolonizing Aboriginal Media and Aboriginal Media Politics in Canada." *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 2010, 34, (1): 89–120. [31]
- Hearne, Joanna. 2017. "'I Am Not a Fairy Tale': Indigenous Storytelling on Canadian Television." *Marvels & Tales* 2017, 31, (1): 126–46.[20]
- Consider: North of 60, Blackstone, Arctic Air, Reservation Dogs, Total Control, Alaska Daily, Tribal, Acting Good, Rutherford Falls, Mohawk Girls

## 13. Dec 8: Conclusion

- Tryon, "Conclusion"
- NO VIDEOS

## **Final Exam – 2 hours, as scheduled by Registrar's Office Covers Weeks 7-13; 120 multiple-choice questions**

- Note: this is during the Official Exam period, so per the Office of the Registrar: "When CAN'T I use an undocumented absence? Undocumented absences cannot be used for examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods (including take-home final exams and December mid-year exams for full courses)"  
([https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/index.html#cannot](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html#cannot))
- Documented Absence Academic Consideration: to request academic consideration for your medical, varsity sport, or other documented matter, you should read the Registrar's Academic Consideration page  
[https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/index.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html) and go through their Student Absence Portal to request such academic consideration to write the Make-up Final Exam
- If you don't have documented grounds for academic consideration, e.g. you slept-in or you forgot about the exam, you may write the Make-up Final Exam with a –10% penalty applied

- Make-up Final Exam dates will be posted on the OWL site after the Registrar sets the date for the Regularly Scheduled Exam (we do not permit writing the exam *ahead* of the Regularly Scheduled Exam date) with options in December (if feasible) and early January
  - You will ONLY be provided an alternative to these times IF you have academic obligations like a class, another exam or test, etc., during that time and that conflict is verifiable by me
- If you are waiting to sort out Academic Consideration, etc., do write the Make-up Final Exam on one of the Make-up Final Exam dates and the penalty can be removed later
- You must write the Final Exam or Make-up Final Exam in one set sitting; you are not allowed to write the exam over multiple sittings, etc.
- Unless verified by WTS as an OWL-system issue, computer-related problems or issues will not be grounds for academic consideration for writing the Make-up Final Exam
- If you are accommodated with test or exam accommodations through Accessible Education (AE), you should check the OWL site and your email for your particular AE test details as all AE tests and exams are conducted by me on the OWL site and not through Accommodated Exam services
  - Ensure your Counsellor has posted your Accommodated Exam verification to the Registrar's ExtraNet
  - Updates to AE test and exam information will be made via the OWL site so no need to register with Accommodation Exams or email me directly *unless* you have not received verification 48 hours before the test or exam
  - If you do not want to write the AE version of a test or exam, you will need to email me at least 24 hours in advance to moved into the main test or exam

### **Important Dates: 2025-26 Academic Schedule**

- 2025:
  - September 4            First Day of Fall Term Classes
  - September 30        No classes - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
  - October 13           Thanksgiving Holiday
  - November 3-9        Fall Reading Week
  - December 9          Fall Term Classes end
  - December 10        Study Day
  - December 11-22    Examination Period
- 2026:
  - January 5            Classes resume
  - February 14-22      Spring Reading Week
  - February 16          Family Day Holiday
  - April 3                Good Friday Holiday
  - April 9                Classes end
  - April 10-11          Study Days
  - April 12-30          Final examination period

### **General Notes about the Class**

1. Read the Course Outline fully and carefully
2. Check the OWL site regularly for updates, details, etc.
3. Emails: please use your UWO email account for class-related emails
4. Tests & Exams: all done online via the class OWL site
5. No office hours: just email me to set up a Zoom appointment
6. If you have computer or other problems during an Exam:
  - If you have any problems/issues, you need to contact OWL support for help
  - If you have Internet or other issues, while completing an Exam, you need to provide documentation verifying the problem and its impact, such as an OWL WTS statement verifying the problem, verification from your Internet service provider, screenshot of the issue to be assessed, etc.; if you don't have a documented verification for the problem/issue, academic consideration will not be provided
7. Exams are only reviewable at designated times and locations and only in-person, so please email me directly for direction to review an exam
8. The Faculty of Social Science and/or Department of Political Science will adjust final grades in accordance with policies and regulations as imposed
9. Conduct yourself according to the University of Western Ontario Student Code of Conduct, which can be accessed as a PDF from:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>
10. "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. Please refer to Scholastic Discipline under the Senate Policy
11. 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)
  - 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 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/>
12. **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](http://studentexperience.uwo.ca/student_experience/studentconduct.html)
  13. Grade concerns: email me at your earliest convenience
  14. **Unacceptable Use of AI**
    - The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) are not permitted in this class
    - therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of the University of Western Ontario's [Academic Misconduct](#) which may constitute a [Scholastic Offence](#)
    - The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in: a failure to receive full grades, the need to resubmit the assignment, need to orally present the assignment in office hours, or a failure to complete the requirements of the course.
  15. *Please also read the Appendices also provided.*
  16. NOTE: if changes to the Course Outline are necessitated, we work to let you know as soon as possible, so please check the class OWL site and your email regularly

**Thank you for  
taking my class!😊**



# **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:

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

## **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 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:

[https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

## **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 (<https://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 Academic Policy:  
[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)

### **PLAGIARISM\***

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

*A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.* You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs.

Acknowledgement is indicated either by

(1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

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

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

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

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970;  
approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991  
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 <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
  - Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
- Student Development Services can be reached at: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>
- 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.