

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3588G Winter 2026

Course Outline / Syllabus

Note:

- *You are responsible for reading the updates to the Course Outline made on this page and other parts of the OWL site, so consult the OWL site regularly*
- **Class location: UCC 66 WALS Room**
- **Time: 2:30pm - 4:30pm**

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science**

Course: Political Science 3588G

Title: International Human Rights

Term: Winter 2026

Professor: Nig Narain

Date & Time: See OWL site or UWO Course Timetable

Format: 2 lecture hours – a mix of lecture and participation activities.

Course Description: What is this Course about?

This course provides an overview of the topic of human rights, from its origins to its 21st century reality, to its various conceptions, theoretical notions, and instruments, looking at issues of concern, abuses and potential solutions.

In particular, this course is a survey of the area of International Human Rights, and therein, how various aspects of global politics and human rights interact and interconnect.

Antirequisite(s): [Political Science 2219E](#), the former Political Science 3388E.

Prerequisite(s): [Political Science 2231E](#) or [Political Science 2531F/G](#)

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*

Course Objectives: What will you learn in this Course?

- Definitions of human rights and debates about such definitions
- Debates in International Human Rights
- Frameworks for understanding international human rights, including navigating the ‘glocal’ nexus of human rights
- Multiple and multifaceted topics in the area of International Human Rights
- Enhancing verbal communication skills and teamwork abilities
- Written communication in time-constrained environment with delimited information, data and materials

Learning Outcomes: What is this Course teaching you?

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>
Lecture & Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognize the importance of engaging colleagues’ ideas• 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
Test & Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizational skills that contribute to scholarly and personal independence

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|--|--|
| | <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 & verbal 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 • Ethical dimensions of problem identification and methodology |
|--|--|

Important Dates: What big dates should you note?

- 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

Course Reading: What must you read and where should you get it?

Please the Bookstore’s website to acquire the Course Textbook: Michael Goodhart, *Human Rights: Theory and Practice*, 4th edition, Oxford University Press, 2022/23. This is the only material you are required to purchase.

Other required course readings will be posted on the OWL site without cost to you. Some readings may be provided in advance of the final exam and will be added through the course of the term via the OWL site to use for your final exam, so please check the OWL site accordingly.

Course Evaluation & Assignments: How are you graded?

Your grade will be evaluated as follows:

Attendance & Participation:	20%
Essay Mid-Term Test:	30%
Essay Final Exam	<u>50%</u>
	100%

NOTE:

- We are an English-language school, so all assignments, etc., must be in English
- Maximum grade for any one assignment or the course is 100%, so any bonuses, etc., will not result in a grade higher than 100% nor will they carry over to any other assignment
- No Undocumented Absences will be usable for this course (i.e. unusable):
 - Attendance & Participation: Based on 9 out 13 classes, so you can miss 4 weeks without any impact on your grade
 - Mid-Term Test is a Designated Assignment
 - Final Exam is during Official Exam period
- Details about each assignment will be posted on the OWL site

OWL Brightspace Website: Why should you check this regularly?

Our class OWL Brightspace is “POLISCI 3588G”. All course announcements, grades, other readings, etc., will come from the OWL site. Please don’t turn off notifications, etc.

“All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace:

<https://westernu.brightspace.com/> If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support through <https://brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/>. Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/) <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/> online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.” (UWO guidance to students)

Note that the latest, most-up-to-date information is posted on the OWL site, so though dates, evaluations, policies, etc., are stated in this Course Outline, it is your responsibility to check the OWL site for updated and most current information.

Schedule of Class and Assignments Due Dates:

Jan 9 Intro to the Course

Jan 15 What are Human Rights?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 1 “The Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights”

Donnelly & Whelan, *International Human Rights*, 2 “Theories of Human Rights”

Jan 22 What are International Human Rights?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 2 “Human Rights in International Law

Donnelly & Whelan, 1 “Human Rights in Global Perspective”

Jan 29 What are Feminist Approaches & the Universal/Relative Discussion to International Human Rights?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 4 “Feminist Approaches to Human Rights”

Donnelly & Whelan, 3 “The Relative Universality of Human Rights”

Feb 5 How do Indigenous Rights and International Human Rights interact?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 15 “Indigenous Rights and Language Sovereignty”

Donnelly & Whelan, *International Human Rights*, 6 “Regional Human Rights Regimens”

Sun Feb 8 Mid-Term Test: 2pm-4pm

- In-person exam on Campus
- More details will be posted on the OWL site for more details
- Mid-Term Test is a Designated Assessment and so exempt from “Undocumented Absence” Academic Consideration” (see OWL site for more details)

Feb 12 What is Genocide and its connection to International Human Rights?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 8 “Genocide

READING WEEK

Feb 26 What is Humanitarian Intervention and its connection to International Human Rights?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 9 “Humanitarian Intervention”

Mar 5 What are Economic and Social Rights and their connection International Human Rights?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 16 “Social movements and human rights

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 21 “The SDGs and economic rights”

Mar 12 What are Mobility and Migration Rights and their connection to International Human Rights?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 13 “Migration and Refugees”

Mar 19 What are Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Rights and Religion and their connection to International Human Rights?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 18 “Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Human Rights”

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 19 “Human Rights and Religion”

Mar 26 What are Environmental and Resources Rights and their connection to International Human Rights?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 14 “Human Rights and the Environment”

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 20 “The human right to water”

Apr 2 What is Transitional Justice?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 10 “Transitional Justice”

Apr 9 How does one Make an International Human Rights Claim?

Goodhart, *Human Rights*, 17 “Theory in Practice: Making Human Rights Claims in a Human Rights Way”

Final Exam: 2-hours, Date & Time set by Registrar, during Official Exam Period, In-person

- In-person exam on Campus
- More details will be posted on the OWL site for more details

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

Note these are general rules and some of them may not apply to our class as we not using that particular mode of instruction, assignment, etc.

- Please read the Political Science Department’s “APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE” document:
<https://politicalscience.uwo.ca/undergraduate/docs/outlines/2025-26/APPENDIX%20TO%20UNDERGRADUATE%20COURSE%20OUTLINES1.pdf>
- Pre-requisites and Anti-Requisites:
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*
- UWO Email: In accordance with policy, 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. See: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf
- 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.
- Email, text and phone: Use your UWO Email for class communication or text message or phone *only if you have identified yourself*.
 - Grades are never discussed via email or text or phone.
 - I will endeavour to reply within 72-hours as there are a lot of students in this class (and my other classes); but if something is already covered in the Announcements I’ve sent or materials I have posted, you may not get a response or get a longer delayed response.
 - If something is *truly urgent* then text me.

- Please don't follow up emails with more emails after a few hours, etc., and texts or calls as well, as that just clogs emails and makes responding more time-consuming and confusing for all.
- Statement on Use of Electronic Devices: NO electronics devices are allowed during tests and examinations unless specified differently.
- 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
- 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>
- 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>
- Test and Exam review will only be reviewable at select times and locations. Information will be provided at the appropriate times in the term
- Bringing family, friends, children, interested persons, etc., to class:
 - Yes: if you want *or need* to bring your family, friends or others to class you are welcome to do so
 - Please let me know in advance of the class
 - Please ensure they are respectful and do feel free to introduce them to me and those sitting around you
 - If you need to bring to class for childcare, breastfeeding, eldercare, etc., or other reasons, that’s perfectly fine and it is recommended sitting at the back of the classroom as there is more space there for

your loved ones, etc., to move around and can provide more area to have privacy if needed

- If there is a significant disruption due to this, please do consider leaving or you may be asked to do for the class's functioning, and note that only 9 out of 13 classes count for your Attendance and Participation
- If there are any problems or you need other accommodations, please do connect with me as you see fit or reach out to Western Student Services' offices.
- 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 Wellness & Well-being / 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. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.
 - Please contact Accessible Education at 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/>.

- 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.
- Acceptable and Unacceptable Use of AI: The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, other LLMs, etc.) is permitted to aid or nuance your thinking, communication, and learning but not to replace or subvert it. The use of generative technology is permitted in this course for the following activities: A) Exposing you to other ideas: however, it is important to brainstorm your own ideas first. Be aware that generative technology may introduce biases into the topic, and in questions of politics has a persistent consensus-driven bias. B) Improving clarity and expression of ideas and thoughts that you have written down first. Do not copy any sentences directly from generative technology, make sure to edit and retain your writing C) Study or assessment aids, by generating practice questions, flashcards or learning simulations, but double check the accuracy of any generated content D) make information easier to understand, simplifying the material, providing pre-reading and post-reading summaries for accessibility. However, you should always read the text yourself as generative technology tends to oversimplify and can misrepresent political information. The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities: A) responding to a classroom prompt: participating in discussions is about building community and exposing your ideas to others, communication of your own ideas is necessary B) modifying AI generated work slightly to make it appear as if you created it. This results in surface level learning and misunderstanding of the material C) Analysis of data: using generative technology to assess or argue politically. Generative technology is statistically probable, but it cannot currently replace analysis and assessment D) Copying AI generated text and citing it as written by AI. You must use original academic sources in your responses, and you cannot cite generated text. You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Any assignment that is found to have

used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways can 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. If in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification.

- Religious Accommodation: When conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible but, in particular for assignments (e.g. test, exams, and essays) no later than one week prior to the deadline, due date or completion date. Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays: <https://www.edi.uwo.ca>
- 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%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf
- Academic Policies: The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.
- 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
- Zoom Etiquette (for office hours):
 - Please pay attention to video, microphone and screen sharing settings.
 - Keep chat rooms and images appropriate for an academic setting.
 - Any inappropriate actions, imagery, discussion or chat messages may result in your removal from the meeting at my discretion.
 - Audio recordings may be available as an alternative to synchronous discussion.
 - Please test all WIFI, video and audio before the meetings.
 - Use Zoom buttons for raising your hand, responding yes and no, asking host to adjust speed, requesting a break and more.

- Please be conscious of your speaking time and that of others, if you are continuing in a manner that is not fair to your peers, I reserve the right to intervene and put us back on a more focused discussion.
- Recording synchronous content: lectures, office hours or other meetings:
 - Recording the lecture part is acceptable BUT don't record the discussions, etc., as that will violate the privacy of your colleagues in the class and make for much poorer and useless discussions
 - Any remote learning sessions for this course **may** be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings may be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings. Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.
- **NOTE: if changes to the Course Outline are necessitated, we work to let you know as soon as possible, so please check the OWL site and your emails regularly!**

*Approach me with your questions or concerns: we 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 2100-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses.

General Word Count Guidelines by Course:

Half Course (e.g., 1000-1999): At least 1500 words.

Half Course (e.g., 2200+): At least 2500 words.

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.

Links for the list of topics below can be found at:

<https://teaching.uwo.ca/news/2025/Annual%20UG%20Course%20Outline%20Update%20Guide%202025%20-%202026.pdf>

- [_Key Academic Dates](#)
- [_Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions - Undergraduate Procedures](#)
- [_Scholastic Offences - Undergraduate Procedures](#)
- [_Senate Review Board Appeals - Procedures](#)
- [_Course Numbering Policy, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction](#)
- [_Marks/Grades; Definitions of Grades;](#)
- [_Grading Scale for Undergraduate Students](#)
- [_General Policy Structure of the Academic Year Policy](#)
- [_Course Numbering Policy, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction](#)
- [_Undergraduate Course Credit Policy • Procedures](#)
- [_Examinations Definitions of Types of Examinations](#)
- [_Examinations Evaluation of Academic Performance](#)
- [_Examinations Examination Conflicts Policy](#)
- [_Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [_Accommodation for Religious Holidays Policy](#)

- Policy on Academic Consideration –
- Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions (Undergraduate)
- Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate)
- Senate Review Board Academic Appeals

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 - 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:

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:

<https://www.advising.ssc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Wellness & Well-being / Mental Health @ Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. <https://www.uwo.ca/health//psych/index.html>

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.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact 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 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. 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

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