

Political Science 2219E (Huron University College)
The Politics of Human Rights
Course Outline

Prerequisites: Pol.Sci.1020E

Type: Summer Day (Essay) July 6/20 to August 13/20 (final exam likely Aug.17 or 18)

Place: Online

Instructor: Dr. Robert F. Jonasson

Office Hour: no formal hours (please e-mail)

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political Science 2219E, the Politics of Human Rights, is a course which examines the theoretical underpinnings, political dimensions and real-world applications of human rights. The course combines a focus on the political dimension associated with human rights, the background, meaning and interpretation of human rights, with a focus on the claims of cultural relativism and the special ‘problem’ of women and children’s rights. Part of the course will focus on human rights through a comparative analysis of particular countries’ human rights records, with an emphasis on the international actors and governance structures such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students should have definitional knowledge and understanding of elements of political theory, comparative politics and international relations as this applies to the topic of human rights and its political manifestations. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify the key components of the politics of human rights and examine several historical and current states’ human rights records. Students will have an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the human rights concept.

GRADE BREAKDOWN: (more info on these items is in the outline)

1) ESSAY: 8-10 page paper due Thursday, August 6/20 by 11.59pm in OWL -Assignments
– Essay - *worth 40%*

2) FINAL EXAM (TBA online, open-book essay – on whole course): *worth 40%*

3) 5 ON-LINE FORUM POSTS: *worth 5% (1% each)* **These are online in OWL - Forums.**

4/ LARGE ASSIGNMENT: Your own view of human rights. 4-6 double-paced pages due Monday, July 20/20 by 11.59pm in OWL – Assignments – Assignment: *worth 15%*

REQUIRED READINGS:

Tremblay, Kelly, Lipson and Mayer. 2009. *Understanding Human rights*. Book is available at the Western Bookstore (this may be closed – please seek another source, including possibly an e-copy, if this is so). You may use used copies.

All other readings will be on OWL. All readings are given below and are subject to change.

Week #1: week beginning July 6 - **The Genealogy of the Human Rights Discourse** -- course introduction, expectations; Human Rights - a basic intro; sources of Western Human Rights and non-Western traditions: Judeo-Christian revelation; the natural law tradition in the West; Islamic views; Critical traditions: Orthodox Marxism; utilitarianism; National Socialism

Readings – Rerum Novarum pdf (Leo XIII, 1891); Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen pdf (France, 1789); The Cairo Declaration on the Human Rights in Islam pdf (Organization of the Islamic Conference, 1990); Marx’s critique of human rights pdf (author unknown, 2010); utilitarianism pdf

No forum post

Week #2: week beginning July 13 - **Beyond Negative Rights** - Human Rights as individual rights: negative and positive liberty; group rights – are they human rights?

Reading – textbook Ch.1

Thursday, July 16: *forum post #1* due

Week #3: week beginning July 20 - **Are Human Rights consistent with multiple meanings of them?** – women’s rights and children’s rights; Human Rights and cultural relativism;

Reading – textbook Chs.4,7

Monday, July 20 – **Large Assignment due**

Thursday, July 23: *forum post #2* due

Week #4: - week beginning July 27 - **Human Rights Instruments and Enforcement Mechanisms** – Human Rights treaties; International forums for justice; compliance and the difficulty of enforcement

Readings – Universal Declaration of Human Rights pdf (U.N., 1948); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights pdf (U.N., 1966); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights pdf (U.N., 1966); International Criminal Court pdf (Rosenthal, 2001) + textbook Chs.2,3

Thursday, July 30- *forum post #3* due

Week #5: week beginning August 4 (the 3rd is a holiday) - **The abuse of Human Rights: Case Studies** - Nazi Germany and the USSR; North Korea and Russia (Chechnya)

Readings – The Soviet Union and Stalin pdf; Nazi Germany pdf; North Korea and human rights pdf (Human Rights Watch, 2011); Chechnya and human rights pdf (Human Rights Watch, 2007)

Thursday, August 6: - *forum post #4* and **essay due**

Week #6:- week beginning August 10 - **Con't** - China, the United States and Canada

Readings -- China and human rights pdf (Lum, 2008); The American death penalty and human rights pdf (Dieter, date unknown)

Thursday, August 13: *forum post #5 due*

The late penalty is 2% per working day (Fridays and weekends do not count). **In all cases, the date when submitted to OWL is the date which will be considered definitive when assigning late penalties. For both the assignment and the essay, a grade of zero will be assigned if more than 2 weeks past the due date. This late penalty does not apply to forum posts.**

**ESSAY TOPICS POL.SCI. 2219E
PROF. JONASSON**

Topic suggestions: (create your own thesis statement out of the below)

1/ The sources of human rights thinking – why should human rights exist and what makes us worthy of them?

2/ Which rights should be considered human rights and why?

3/ Is the current Western human rights discourse an imposition on non-Western peoples?

4/ Can any of the international institutions/treaties that we now have consistently and realistically help to realize human rights?

5/ Does the enforcement of human rights require a sovereign world state?

6/ Look at any 2 current nation-states and compare their main human rights records. NOTE: Use the rights in the ‘International Bill of Rights’ to compare.

NOTE: You may do your own topic but it must be approved by the instructor. Questions must be similar in scope and nature to the ones above. Failure to get approval will result in grade of 0.

Due Date: Thursday, *August 6/20* in OWL-Assignments-Essay by 11.59pm (**do not wait until the last minute – lates will be strictly enforced; if you submit the wrong file, you must e-mail me the correct one before the deadline**). Turnitin will be used.

Length: 8-10 pages double-spaced. You must have a bibliography and papers must be properly cited.

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

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

Bibliography: You must include a bibliography. Failure to do so will result in an "F" grade.

Citations: See Essay Instructions document on OWL.

**PLEASE SEE ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS DOCUMENT IN OWL –
RESOURCES**

2219E LARGE ASSIGNMENT

Length: 4-6 pages double-spaced minimum (but 10 maximum)

Due date: Monday, July 20/20 in OWL – Assignments - Assignment (do not wait to the last minute – lates will be strictly enforced; if you submit the wrong file, you must e-mail me the correct one before the deadline)

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

Bibliography: not needed

Citations: not needed

You are simply to outline your own view of human rights answering the following (in any way you want):

1/ Do humans have human rights? If yes, which rights are paramount?

2/ If yes, why should they have rights (what are their sources)? If no, why not?

Write in complete sentences and paragraphs.

NOTE: The Essay Instructions document may give you some help here, so consult it, but remember this assignment is not an essay.

This assignment is pass/fail: if you do the above properly, you will get 15/15. If it is not done correctly, you will get 0/15. **I will not comment on or return these assignments.** I will post the grades to OWL by July 22. The regular late penalty applies for lates, The final date for late submission is August 3/20 by 11.59pm.

2219E ON-LINE QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On **OWL – Forums** – you will be answering 5 questions in 5 weeks (see times in outline above) which you will access by going to OWL- Forums at the end of the week (it will be up late Friday mornings).

The question will be straightforward and short. You must then post an answer in Forums close to 1 double-spaced page long (you may go over this, but try to keep it near 1 page). These are opinion questions no formal research is required. *It is your post, not a response to another post that counts.* If I cannot see your post, it is not valid. Make sure you have posted it correctly.

You may then choose to comment on other students posts but keep a courteous environment at all times. However, you do not have to do this. Rude replies will be deleted.

Due date: The following end of the week when the question was given – Thursdays at 11.59pm
Do not wait until the last minute – even one minute late means I will delete your answer.

Marks: 5% of total grades (1% for each of 5). You must do the task (it is a full point to do it and zero to not) and is not graded.

Lates: If you miss up to 1 of the weeks, you have the following option. You must e-mail me the answer but it then will be 3 pages doubled-spaced minimum for each answer. The final due date for these is August 13 at 11.59pm. After this, there is no way to make-up these grades.

Weeks: see outline above

**HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2219E 2020
ALTERNATIVE FINAL EXAM INFO**

Instructor: Dr. Jonasson

Format: Take-home, open-book, online (all must do it)

Time: TBA – QUESTIONS WILL BE POSTED IN OWL-RESOURCES at the start or before the chosen exam date (likely August 17 or 18) (the file will be called final exam questions)

DUE DATE: TBA– the typed (it must be typed) answer in Word or PDF format only must be submitted to OWL-ASSIGNMENTS – exam

Study on-line notes and readings. The notes are most important.

2 (Two) Essay questions (5 questions will be given as choices) - each of the 2 answers are worth half of the exam mark

The material covered will be all material on the course outline.

Value: 40% (each question worth 20% of course grade)

Sample question: (this will not be on exam)

1/ Give reasons why National Socialism is not a human rights ideology. In your view, should Nazis and Neo-Nazis be allowed to exist in liberal democracies?

Answer all parts of the question. Write as much as possible without going off topic or repeating yourself. Write in proper paragraph and sentence form. No citations or bibliography are needed (do not include these). A proper structure (i.e. introduction, conclusion) is required but no formal thesis statement is needed.

All questions will involve no more than 2 topic areas on the outline directly.

Length:

I would suggest a target of 3-5 pages double-spaced per question (6-10 in total), but answering the questions properly is more important than strict page lengths.

More info about the exam will be posted to OWL-Resources during the course

COURSE PROCEDURES

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

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

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

4/ **Pictures:** These are on OWL in Resources. These are thematically arranged with the topic areas. These are to help you with the information, do not worry about studying them.

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

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

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

6/ **Appeals:** You may ask me to revisit your grades, but be aware that I mark carefully! YOU MUST PUT ALL CONCERNS IN WRITING. I will only change a grade if you prove to me that I am in error about certain pieces of factual information in your assignment, paper or exam. Please remember that I do not give grades according to your personality - try not to be personally offended by what you consider a poor grade (indeed, it is difficult to get to know students in an on-line course in any case). An appeal must go to me first. Your grade may go up, stay the

same or go down (I would give then you an average of the old grade and the new grade). You may go down if I discover critical things I missed the first time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12/ I will give students basic references (for jobs, student exchange programs etc.) if their grade is above 75% in a class in which I have taught them (final grade). **For all post-graduate references (law school, grad school, teachers’ college etc.) and scholarships, students must have completed at least 3 courses (half or full) with me beyond 1020E and have a grade of 80% or better (as an average in the courses). If students took 1020E with me, they may or may not factor the grade in this class into their average, but they will need 2 more classes (half or full).** However, good character is an important consideration for promotion as well. I do not promote opportunists (eg. those who ask for higher grades without merit) or those with ‘entitlement’ attitudes. Make sure you give me at least 3 weeks notice for any deadlines and

always give me all forms and postage. **I will do a maximum of 4 paper/online references for a student in a term.**



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2020

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons 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 or for having already taken the antirequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the Code of Student Conduct at:

www.huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf.

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post all relevant information on the OWL class site, <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>, and on the Huron website at www.huronuc.on.ca/about/accessibility.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

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.

Please see the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Academic Student Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/contact-directory>.

Adding / Dropping Courses

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Huron website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Copyright Regarding Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's answers or papers on the course web site he/she should ask for the student's written permission.

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars, it is also an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction, to failure in the course, to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

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, as per the Academic Calendar:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_189 .

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University, for a 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 Western University and Turnitin.com.

Computer-Marked 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.

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.

Policy on “Special” Accommodation

Students who require **special** accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html> .

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf .

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

Information for Student Illness Reporting Tool Site

Beginning March 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. all students are asked to use a new, online [Student Illness Reporting Tool](#) to track and monitor illnesses, whether the illness impacts the submission of course work or not. The illness must be entered each day that you are ill. When the notification is saved, an email is automatically sent to you for your records. This tool takes the place of the need to submit a medical note and the Self-Reported Absence System used by undergraduate students.

If you have self-reported and require accommodation for a deadline or an exam, please email your instructor directly with the details.

The health, safety and wellness of the university community is important to Western. During the current COVID-19 situation, it is essential for Western to track the impact of illnesses for the University. The Middlesex-London Health Unit must receive this data to be able to quickly understand the magnitude of illness affecting the university community.

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.

Please review the full policy at,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf.

Policy on “Academic” Accommodation - Medical / Non-Medical Grounds (if absence is not self-reported)

- (a) **Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go directly to Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca** .

University Senate policy, which can be found at,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf , requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf .

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a

request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

(c) Non-Medical Grounds: Consult your Instructor directly.

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

Students who are stressed, emotionally distressed or in mental health crisis, please refer to: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help, or email Huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca to access your wellness staff directly. Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/.

The Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) provides medical response to 9-1-1 calls on Main, Brescia and Huron campuses which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the academic year. SERT is dispatched through the campus community Police Service (CCPS) to any medical emergency on campus at (519) 661-3300. For more information about SERT please visit: sert.uwo.ca/about-sert/about-sert/.

Important Dates & Directory at Huron and Western

For a current and up-to-date list of important dates and campus directories, please visit:

- **Huron – Important Dates:** <https://huronuc.ca/important-dates-and-deadlines>
- **Western – Academic Calendar & Sessional Dates:**
<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>
- **Huron Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:**
<https://huronuc.ca/index.php/contact/contact-directory>
- **Western Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** <https://www.uwo.ca/directory.html>