



**Political Science 1020E Section 551
Huron University College
Introduction to Political Science
Course Outline**

Type: Full Course (Essay) Sept. 14/20 to April 5/21
Antirequisites: the former Politics 021F - 026G series
Room: TBA if we return in January
Time: Mondays 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Instructor: Dr. Robert F. Jonasson

Office: V125 Ext: 248 (please call only during office hours)
E-mail address: rjonasso@uwo.ca (please e-mail anytime)

Office Hour: Mondays 3.30pm-5.30pm (regular hours only if we return); otherwise, I will answer some e-mails during this time (you may e-mail at other times too)

Required Readings: (available at U.W.O. bookstore)

Eric Mintz, David Close and Osvaldo Croci. Politics, Power and the Common Good. 5th Ed. (Pearson Canada, Toronto: 2018.)

Learning Objectives:

Students should have definitional knowledge and understanding of political science, a rudimentary knowledge and understanding of the principal theories of political analysis, a preliminary knowledge and understanding of the principal fields of political analysis, a preliminary knowledge and appreciation of political science in the context of other disciplines, and an ability to search for, gather, review, and evaluate materials relevant to the core substantive learning objectives of Political Science 1020E.

Structure: Political Science 1020E is an introductory course in the field of politics. The course will cover a wide variety of topics, including Canadian politics, international politics, political theory, comparative politics and public administration. Each class will have a lecture if held on campus. There will be 10 in-class assignments on Mondays (note the dates below). These assignments consist of:

1/ Workshops/Forum Posts. In many weeks, part of the lecture period will feature a Critical Political Issues Workshop question. Students will be asked to address major challenges arising from the weekly readings and lecture presentations. The task for each Workshop is to produce strategies and solutions that respond creatively to the challenges facing governments and political communities. Each student will write his/her own opinion to the questions (1 page double-spaced minimum). These are pass/fail. **(5 percent – 0.5% each – 10 of them in total).**

These will be done as online Forum Posts in OWL – Forums during the time the course is online (see outline for more info on this below). Note the dates for all workshops/forum posts.

OWL: This course uses Western OWL as a learning tool on a regular basis. Login to OWL by going to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> and entering your user ID and password. Check that you have access to the course.

Topics: Readings are from the text. It may prove difficult at times to keep to the schedule below. Course notes will be posted to OWL.

Schedule:

Week 1: Sept. 14: Course outline (no readings); How to write an essay; extension and late policies (essay instructions on OWL); What is political science? (Ch.1);

Week 2 Sept. 21: Basic Concepts: Society, Gov't, Power (Ch.1); **Workshop #1**

Week 3: Sept. 28: Basic Concepts: Sovereignty, The State, The Nation, Nation-State (Ch.2);

Week 4: Oct.5: Basic Concepts: Law, Constitutionalism, (Ch.12); **Workshop #2**

Week 5: Oct. 12: Thanksgiving Monday Holiday

Week 6: Oct. 19: Ideology; Liberalism (Ch 3); **Workshop #3**

Week 7: Oct. 26: Ideology: Conservatism (Ch.3); Ideology: Fascism (Ch.3);

Week 8: Nov. 2: Western Reading week Holiday

Week 9: Nov. 9: Ideology: Socialism, Communism (Ch.3); Ideology: Feminism and Environmentalism (Ch.4); **Workshop #4**

Week 10: Nov. 16: **mid-term test in class 1 hour (6.30-7.30pm) or online test (TBA)**

Week 11: Nov. 23: International Politics (Ch.18);

Week 12: Nov.30: Forms of Gov't: Liberal Democracy (Ch.10); Totalitarianism, Authoritarianism (Ch.11); **Workshop #5**

Week 13: Dec.7: Forms of Gov't: Parliamentary Systems (Ch.14); Presidential Systems (Ch.15);

Term 2

Week 1: Jan.4: Forms of Gov't: Federalism, Canadian Federalism (Ch.13); **Workshop #6**

Week 2: Jan.11: The Political Process: The Political System, Political Culture (Ch.5);

Week 3: Jan. 18: The Political Process: Interest Groups (Ch 8.); **Workshop #7**

Week 4: Jan. 25: The Political Process: Political Parties (Ch.6);

Week 5: Feb. 1: The Political Process: The Media (Ch.8); **Workshop #8**

Week 6: Feb. 8: **essay hard copy due in class (at 6.30pm – if class is held) and e-copy in OWL at 6.30pm- either way)**

Week 7: Feb. 15 – Western Reading Week Holiday

Week 8: Feb. 22: The Political Process: Elections and Electoral Systems (Ch.7); **Workshop #9**

Week 9: March 1: previous week continued

Week 10: March. 8: The Political Process: Representative Assemblies (Ch.14);

Week 11: March 15: The Executive (Ch.15); **Workshop #10**

Week 12: March 22: The Political Process: The Administration (Ch.16);

Week 13: March 29: The Judiciary (Ch.12)

Week 14: April 5: lecture make-up (if necessary), exam info

Final Exam: (April Exam Period - time and place TBA)
- essay format; 2 hours (if classroom) – if online (TBA)

Grade Breakdown:

Final Exam: 20% (TBA)

Mid-term: 20% (November 16/20 in class 6.30pm or online)

Essay: 50% (12-16 pages, double-spaced; due February 8/21) – more info given below
Workshop/Forum posts participation and writings: 10% in total (1% each)

NOTE: If you legitimately miss the mid-term, there will be no make-up exam but your final exam will then count for 40%.

GENERAL COURSE RULES AND SUGGESTIONS

The following rules are to be taken very seriously. They will be strictly enforced. Every student must be treated fairly; the rules below will ensure that all students will be treated in a just manner. If you follow the rules and suggestions laid out here, you will have a much better chance of doing well in the course. If you break the rules, you will suffer certain consequences.

1/ Do not be disruptive in class. After one warning, you will be asked to leave. Continual behavioral problems may lead to more severe consequences (eg. removal from the course).

2/ Come to class on time.

3/ Ask questions intelligently. The prof will let you know when questions can be asked (i.e. later in the lecture). Do not ask questions for the sake of asking them (i.e. to show ‘interest’),

to 'stick out' etc.). Questions should contribute to the lecture. Questions about course material can usually be answered in this course outline.

4/ 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.

5/ 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.

6/ 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/ All essays must be handed to the instructor in-class on the due date.

8/ All late papers must be handed into the essay drop-off box outside the office of the Arts and Social Sciences Administrative Assistants' office, Room A116.

9/ The late penalty is 2% per working day (weekends do not count). **In all cases, the stamped date is the date which will be considered definitive when assigning late penalties or the time a file is submitted to me or OWL.**

10/ The instructor has never lost a paper and will not accept that as an excuse. If you leave a paper in the drop box, you are advised to email the instructor to ensure that the paper has come into his possession. In other words, YOU are responsible for your paper up to and until the INSTRUCTOR has determined that he is in possession of it. Do not let other students hand in your papers unless you are willing to take the risk that it might not get to its destination.

11/ Emailed papers will only be accepted if you have been given *specific permission* by the instructor that this is acceptable. If you seek such permission you should make the request to the instructor. This option is only for the most rare and unusual circumstances and is subject to the complete discretion of the instructor.

12/ 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. **MOST MAJOR ITEMS IN THE COURSE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTE (eg. doctor's note) which is shown to Academic Counselling.** Dates must be present to indicate the time period the student was affected. **Academic Counselling must approve your request before I will.**

13/ 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.

14/ I take all marking very seriously and I am unwilling to change a grade unless I have made a real error (eg. marked you down for a statement which is not wrong; marked you down for a grammatical error which is not wrong). Subjective feelings are not a valid basis for an appeal (eg. "I think you are too hard on me"; "I have never had a mark this low"). 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.

All appeals must be put into writing. I may take a day or more to make my decision. I do not discuss with students about their papers on the day I hand them back.

15/ 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.

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

17/ 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 3 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.**

POL.SCI. 1020E ESSAY

Length: 12-16 pages double-spaced

Due date: Monday, February 8/21 by 6.30pm (hand hard copy in it at start of class – if held)

The e-file is to be put into OWL – Assignments – Essay (do not wait until the last minute – lates will be strictly enforced, especially if the course is still online; 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.

Advice: Please see essay writing document on OWL.

Appeals: You may see me about your grade (but not on the day I return your work), 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 paper (bring documents to prove). 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. See more details in course rules above.

Essay questions/ thesis statements

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

- 1/ Canadians are generally more comfortable with the welfare state than Americans.
- 2/ The United Nations has mainly been a success as an international organization.
- 3/ Marxist-Leninism is not likely to return as a major ideology in the 21st century.
- 4/ Offence as a 'hate crime' is deeply problematic for the right to free speech.
- 5/ Nigeria is an example of a fragile liberal democracy.
- 6/ Courts in the United States are too activist and are usurping the powers of elected legislatures.
- 7/ In many Western European countries, multicultural policies are not integrating immigrants very well.
- 8/ Recent Canadian Prime Ministers, of both major parties, have tended to be authoritarian in relation to their party members in the House of Commons.

All essays must be put in Turnitin in OWL Assignments – Essay as e-file attachments (by the same due date as above). You must hand in a paper copy on the due date above if the class is held. The paper copy and the e-file must be identical.

Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form.

MORE INFO ON 1020E ON-LINE FORUM POSTS QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On **OWL – Forums** – you may be answering 10 questions in the entire course (if it stays online) which you will access by going to OWL- Forums at the beginning of the class (many Mondays at 6.30pm – see times above). The questions will be posted just before 6.30pm on the days they are due. *Otherwise, if regular classes resume, you will be given time in lecture (and a booklet) to do the answers on the dates given.*

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, so no formal research is required. *Do not comment on the posts of the other students.* If I cannot see your post, it is not valid. Make sure you have posted it correctly. *Do not post any links and all writings must be your own and must address the question given. Improper posts will be deleted.*

Due date: By the end of the class time (9.30pm sharp) Do not wait until the last minute – even one minute late means I will delete your answer.

Marks: 10% of total grades (1% for each of 10). 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 2 of the weeks (including if these are done in class), 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 April 5 at 9.30pm. After this, there is no way to make-up these grades.

Regrets: If a topic is very sensitive to you and you do not want to have others see your posts, you may e-mail the replies to me by the due date. But I hope you have the courage to do the forum posts most, if not all, times.

ADDITIONAL COURSE PROCEDURES (ESPECIALLY FOR ON-LINE INSTRUCTION)

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 9pm. I will endeavour to answer your e-mails within several hours during the above period (from 9pm 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 while the course is online and are now the most detailed ever. They are crucial to what I want you to know. The textbook is excellent but use it to illuminate the material in the notes (you must read it though!). Material in the textbook not covered in the notes will not be tested (even if I still hope you will read it!). If the notes and text disagree, go with me. I have placed all the notes together by topics (generally 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/ **Audio files:** These are in OWL –Resources. These fairly short audio files are summaries of the lecture topics but they do not cover all items and cannot replace the lecture notes. They should be helpful but are not meant to be entertaining! Please do not assume I lecture the way these sound.

6/ **Grading scheme:**

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

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

7/ **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 9.30pm on due days! *Personal computer/internet/OWL issues are not valid grounds for an excuse.*



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2020 - 2021

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.

While in the physical classroom or online 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 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: 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 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.

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.

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 and on the Huron website at, <https://huronatwestern.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>.

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 website 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 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/>).

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.

Academic Accommodation for Students With Disabilities

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://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>.

Please review the full policy at,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

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.

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 note the following conditions that 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 and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- Any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)**, signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.
- Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term.
- 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.

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

- (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 Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, bereavement) the student should contact an academic advisor directly. All accommodation requests must include a completed [Accommodation Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

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

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/.

Important Dates & Directory

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>
- **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>