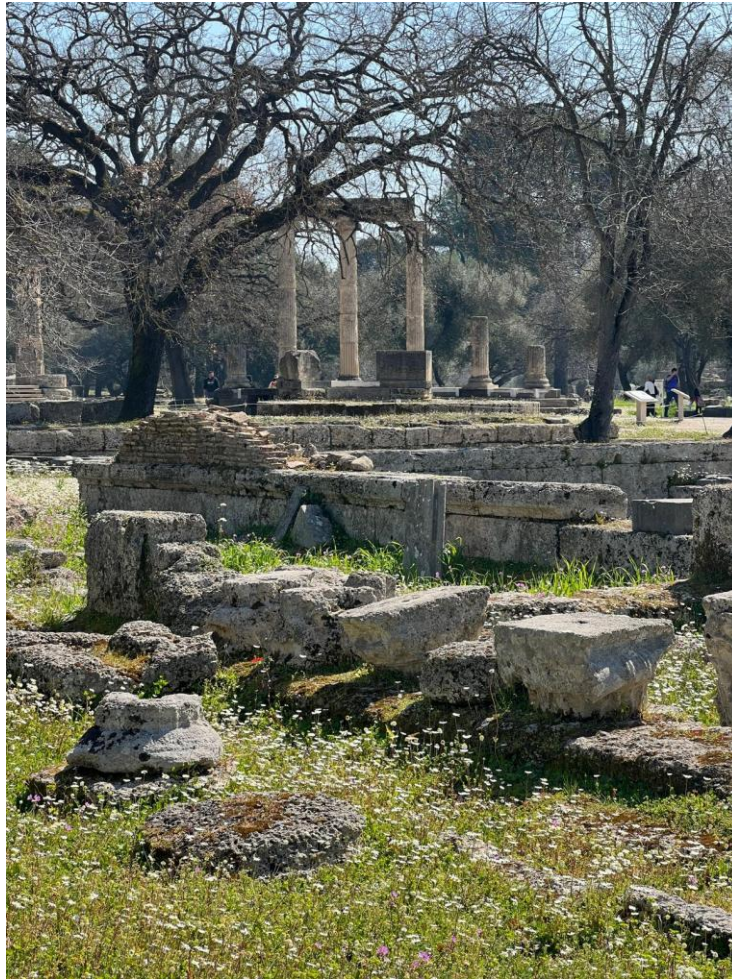


ANCIENT CITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Classical Studies 2500A



Archaeological Site of Olympia, Greece

Course Description:

Ancient Cities is an introductory survey of the urban centers of the ancient Mediterranean, western Asia, and Egyptian worlds. The course focuses on the archaeological remains of some of the earliest and most impressive cities and civilizations in human history, including Babylon, Thebes, Alexandria, Mycenae, Athens, and Rome. Throughout this course, we will investigate the earliest signs of urban organization in the archaeological record and trace the evolution of the physical and social organization of urban life through 10,000 years of history. The course ends with an in-depth look at the urban centres of ancient Greece and Rome.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Instructor Information:

Tarryn Andrews, PhD Candidate – Department of Classical Studies

Email: tandre8@uwo.ca Office: Lawson Hall 3222 Office Hours: TBA

I am a PhD candidate at the University of Western Ontario, in my fourth year of the Classical Archaeology doctoral program. I hold a BA(Hons.) and an MA in Classical Studies and Archaeology from Queen's University as well as an MA in Religious Studies from Queen's University. Additionally, I hold Library and Information Technician diploma from Confederation College. My research and interests are predominantly in the field of ancient Greek archaeology and religion with an emphasis on the architecture of sacred space. I am also greatly interested in incorporating multidisciplinary theories and methodology into my investigations of the people and objects from the ancient world.

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Course Description and Goals:

In the first few weeks of the course, the earliest known villages (ca. 12,500 BCE) early protocities (ca. 8000 BCE) and cities (ca. 4000 BCE onwards) in Mesopotamia, Western Asia, and Egypt will serve as case studies for detecting the rise of urbanization and social organization in the region. We will consider such questions as: 1) How can we discuss the social organization of an urban center when we find large walls and towers in the archaeological record? 2) What is the meaning of the presence of an authoritative figure found in artistic representations? 3) How do we evaluate the central placement of a religious precinct in an archaeological site? We will consider how these spaces were built, who became politically important in these early communities, and how we can deduce social organization from the archaeological record.

The primary focus of the course will trace the evolution of urbanization with major emphasis on the well-known cities of the Greek and Roman worlds. We begin with the early civilizations of the Minoans and Mycenaeans on Crete and the Greek mainland (ca. 3000-1200 BCE) and will look at the colossal palaces and city walls of Knossos, Mycenae, and Troy, and their impressive wall paintings, and rich tombs and grave goods. We will consider what all this material means for our understanding of the organization of the city at this time. Tracing the rise of cities in Greece ("the Polis") takes us through some of the most impressive archaeological sites in the Mediterranean, investigating the important political and religious centers at Athens, Pergamon, and Alexandria (ca. 750 BCE onwards), among others.

The last part of the course investigates Italy and the Roman world. Readings on the early civilizations in Italy (Villanovans, Etruscans, ca. 1000-500 BCE) will be the background to understanding the swift rise of Rome and its eventual conquest of the entire Mediterranean (ca. 500 BCE – 200 CE). The Roman Republic and Empire will be discussed considering new approaches to urban development, use of borrowed urban characteristics, and the use of the city as a backdrop for displaying power, wealth, and status. We will consider the varied approaches the Romans took in order to conquer well-developed cultures around the Mediterranean, considering closely how the city of Rome itself became the center of a large empire and how its rulers incorporated material culture borrowed from these conquered peoples.

During this course, students will develop an understanding of the general processes behind different trajectories of urbanization and collapse, as well as the different archaeological and historical settings of ancient cities in western Asia and the Mediterranean region in particular. Student should be able to critically assess concepts such as 'city' or 'urban' and recognize the strengths and limitations of the archaeological data.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Understand basic archaeological terms and concepts of dating and assessing archaeological evidence.
2. Understand the basic historical timeline and the physical structures of civilizations in the ancient Mediterranean, Western Asia, and Egypt.
3. Develop a fundamental understanding of the use of primary evidence (archaeological, textual, artistic) in the reconstruction of ancient societies, including both its potential and limits.
4. Develop an introductory knowledge about how the cities in the Mediterranean, Western Asia, and Egypt compared to other cities around the world during similar periods, including East Asia, Africa, and South America.
5. Identify characteristics of specific ancient cities by looking at an archaeological site plan or images of its defining archaeological features.
6. Identify how the archaeological evidence of urbanization in the Mediterranean, western Asia, and Egypt allows archaeologists to reconstruct the social organization of urban centers in antiquity.
7. Articulate how the architecture of a city reflects its social and political organization and how this urban environment was used as a backdrop for political means.
8. Appreciate different expressions of group and individual identities through the urban characteristics (e.g. monuments, buildings, street layout) of a city.
9. Gain historical perspective by appreciating that civilizations and cities are situated within their own historical circumstance, as well as within the broader continuum of history.

E-Mail Correspondence:

I will do my best to answer all emails within 24 hours during weekdays and by the next workday during weekends or holidays. Please note that if you email after 5pm on a Friday, you may not receive a response until Monday. If we do not respond within this timeframe, feel free to resend your email to ensure a timely response. Information about how to contact your Teaching Assistant will be posted on the Course Overview page on OWL. Please send all emails through your Western email account (@uwo.ca). We will not respond to emails sent from personal accounts, since we cannot verify your identity (and many of these are sorted to spam).

Class Communication:

Class will be notified of any class cancellations, room changes, and other special announcements via the course website on OWL Brightspace.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. All course material will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d21/login>.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800, or with a support ticket: [create an OWL Brightspace service ticket](#).

Technical Requirements:

This course requires you to have a reliable high-speed internet connection and a computer that meets the technical requirements for writing online timed assessments.

Electronic Devices:

No aids are permitted for any course assessments including the online quizzes, in-class midterm, and final exam. Electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.

Methods of Evaluation**Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates:**

Bi-Weekly Quizzes (5/6)	30%	Online (Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13)
In-Class Midterm Test	30%	In-class (In-class, Week 6 – Date TBA)
Final Exam	40%	In-Person (Scheduled by the registrar)

For all evaluations, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of the guidelines and deadlines and to ask any questions they have prior to the due date. If accommodation is needed, it is the student's responsibility to arrange this prior to the due date. The university has a new policy on late/missed work, so make sure to familiarize yourself with the new procedures.

Midterm make-up tests will be scheduled as soon as possible in consultation with the student and instructor. Please note that the make-up tests will be a different format and include short answer questions.

Online Quizzes – 30%: 6 bi-weekly quizzes, lowest score will be dropped

There are 6 bi-weekly quizzes in this course. Quizzes will be completed online using the Tests & Quizzes tool in OWL. The quizzes will be available for a 48-hour window and are due by 11:59 pm EST on Tuesdays (schedule of dates TBD). **Note: this is the time the quizzes close, please ensure you start well before the deadline in case of technical difficulties.** Each quiz will focus on the material from the previous two weeks of the course. The lowest mark will be dropped, with the remaining five quizzes each consisting of 6% of the final grade. Students will have a 48-hour window to complete each quiz, but once they begin, they will have to complete the quiz within 15 minutes. It is up to the student to ensure they have proper internet access and sufficient time to complete the quiz once started. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple-choice and true/false questions, covering material from both readings and lectures. Questions will be drawn from a large bank of questions and occur in a randomized order, so that different students will see different sets of questions on each quiz. The structure of the quizzes is linear, meaning that students view and complete one question at a time and will not be able to return to a previous question once they have moved on to the next question. A missed quiz results in a mark of zero. **These quizzes are not open book nor are they collaborative, please ensure that you are completing these tests individually.**

****Flexibility Statement:** Please note that since the submission deadline for these online quizzes already includes flexibility in the form of the 48-hour submission window, and not all elements of this assessment are required in the calculation of the final course grade (the lowest score of the 5 quizzes will be

dropped), the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for these missed elements. In other words, **there will be no make-up assignments for missed quizzes.**

Midterm Test – 30%: Date TBA

There is one midterm exam in this course, consisting of multiple-choice and true/false questions and will take place during class time in **Week 6**. No aids are allowed. The midterm will be cumulative and focus on the lecture material and readings from Weeks 1 to 5. Please note that this exam is **not open book**. If you miss the Midterm Test due to illness or provable personal crisis, you must seek academic consideration through the Student Absence Portal and provide documentation (more info in the Policies and Procedures section below).

****Formal Documentation Designation Statement:** Please note that this assessment is central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be **required to provide formal supporting documentation**. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the opportunity to make up this work by **writing a make-up exam**. The **make-up exam will not necessarily be in the same format**, of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Final Exam – 40%:

The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar and held in person. The exam is **cumulative** and will cover all lecture materials and readings from Weeks 1-13 and will consist of a combination multiple-choice and true/false questions. No aids are allowed. Please note that the final exam is **not open book**. If you miss the Final Exam due to illness or provable personal crisis, you must seek academic consideration through the Student Absence Portal and provide documentation (more info in the Policies and Procedures section below). The **make-up exam will not necessarily be in the same format as the original exam**.

Course Materials

Required Text:

Gates, Charles and Andrew Goldman. 2024. *Ancient Cities: The Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece, and Rome*, Third edition. London: Routledge.

*This a new edition of the textbook (3rd edition). Please make sure that you are reading the correct edition as the corresponding readings will be different from older versions.

The textbook is available as an e-book through Western libraries. Limited paperback copies will also be available for purchase at the Western bookstore for those who prefer a physical copy. Both the paperback and e-book versions of the textbook can be purchased online through the publisher's website, linked below.

Textbook publisher's website:

(Paperback) <https://www.routledge.com/Ancient-Cities-The-Archaeology-of-Urban-Life-in-the-Ancient-Near-East-and-Egypt-Greece-and-Rome/GatesGoldman/p/book/9780367232214?srsltid=AfmBOor2UNVLSAi3d6ERVDoVfdbBmi0Z7ULezh6csK0x0lVaAadnEgKp>

(E-book) <https://www.routledge.com/Ancient-Cities-The-Archaeology-of-Urban-Life-in-the-Ancient-Near-East-and-Egypt-Greece-and-Rome/GatesGoldman/p/book/9780367232214?srsltid=AfmBOor2UNVLSAi3d6ERVDoVfdbBmi0Z7ULezh6csK0x0lVaAadnEgKp>

<https://www.westernu.ca/rome/gatesgoldman/p/book/9780367232214?srsId=AfmBOor2UNVLSAi3d6ERVDoVfdbBmi0Z7ULezh%206csK0x0lVaAadnEgKp>

Any additional course reading material (articles, blogs, websites, etc.) will be posted to the class OWL Brightspace page.

Course Schedule

Important Dates:

September 9, 2026 – Fall term classes begin

September 17, 2026 – Last day to add or drop a Fall/Winter 24-week course or a Fall 12-week course. Courses dropped by this date will not appear on a transcript; no fee penalty. Courses dropped after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of ‘WDN’ (withdrawn, without academic penalty).

September 30, 2026 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (non-instructional day)

October 10-12, 2026 – Thanksgiving weekend

October 10-18, 2026 – Fall Reading Week

November 30, 2026 – Last day to withdraw from a Fall 12-week course resulting in a grade of ‘WDN’ (withdrawn, without academic penalty). Course withdrawals after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of ‘F.’

December 9, 2026 – Classes End

December 10, 2026 – Study Day

December 11-22 – Fall Term Examination Period

Class Outline and Schedule

Week/Date	Subject	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
Week 1 Wed Sept 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Archaeology and the Ancient Mediterranean/Western Asia 	Lecture 1: Introduction (Pg. 1-10)	
Week 2 Mon Sept 14 Wed Sept 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neolithic Towns and Villages Early Sumerian Cities 	Lecture 2: Chapter 1 (Pg. 15-31) Lecture 3: Chapter 2 (Pg. 31-59)	
Week 3 Mon Sept 21 Wed Sept 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mesopotamian cities (Bronze Age) Egyptian Cities 	Lecture 4: Chapter 3 (Pg. 59-73) Lecture 5: Chapter 5 (Pg. 85-107)	Quiz 1: Covers material from weeks 1 and 2
Week 4 Mon Sept 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minoan Cities (Greek Bronze Age) 	Lecture 6: Chapter 7 (Pg. 129-141)	

(No Class Wed Sept 30)			
Week 5 Mon Oct 5 Wed Oct 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mycenaean Cities & Troy (Late Greek Bronze Age) 	Lecture 7: Chapter 7 (Pg. 141-149) Lecture 8: Chapter 8 (Pg. 151-158)	Quiz 2: Covers material from weeks 3 and 4
Reading Week October 10-18 *No classes*			
Week 6 Mon Oct 19 Wed Oct 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek Iron Age Cities, Babylon, and Persepolis 	Lecture 9: In-class midterm Lecture 10: Chapter 10 (Pg. 197-207) and Chapter 12 (Pg. 227-235)	In-Class Midterm: Covers material from weeks 1-5
Week 7 Mon Oct 26 Wed Oct 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athens (Archaic and Classical Period) 	Lecture 11: Chapter 14 (Pg. 255-258, 263-264) Lecture 12: Chapter 16 (Pg. 281-298)	Quiz 3: Covers material from weeks 5 and 6
Week 8 Mon Nov 2 Wed Nov 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hellenistic Cities 	Lecture 13: Chapter 18 (Pg. 317-330) Lecture 14: Hatzopoulos 2011 (Pg. 235-241) PDF on OWL	
Week 9 Mon Nov 9 Wed Nov 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Etruscan Cities 	Lecture 15: Smith 2014 (Pg. 1-7, 20-24, 122-130) PDF on OWL Lecture 16: Chapter 20 (Pg. 357-376)	Quiz 4: Covers material from weeks 7 and 8
Week 10 Mon Nov 16 Wed Nov 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rome (Archaic & Republican Period) 	Lecture 17: Chapter 21 (Pg. 378-388) Lecture 18: Chapter 22 (Pg. 398-399, 403-408)	
Week 11 Mon Nov 23 Wed Nov 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rome (Imperial Period) 	Lecture 19: Chapter 23 (Pg. 410-423) Lecture 20: Chapter 25 (Pg. 451-480)	Quiz 5: Covers material from weeks 9 and 10
Week 12 Mon Nov 30 Wed Dec 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roman Provinces 	Lecture 21 and 22: Chapter 26 (Pg. 482-491, 496-499, 502-504, 510-511)	
Week 13 Mon Dec 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pompeii and Herculaneum 	Lecture 23: Chapter 24 (Pg. 424-440)	Quiz 6: Covers material from weeks 11 and 12

Wed Dec 9		Lecture 24: “The Other Pompeii – Life and Death in Herculaneum BBC” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyH13mvUzBM	
Final Examination Period December 11-22			Final Exam Scheduled by the Registrar

Unless otherwise stated, the assigned readings are from Gates 2024

Policies and Procedures

Those who miss classes or parts of classes remain responsible for material they have missed. Students are encouraged to form study groups in order to assist each other in preparing for tests and for discussion of assigned readings.

There is no extra credit in this course; there will be no re-weighting of the course components, any requests for arbitrary grade increases will be denied.

Student Absences and Missed Coursework:

Students must familiarize themselves with the University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs posted on the Academic Calendar:
<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for attempted or completed work, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult: Accessible Education.

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar’s webpage: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/>

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made **within 48 hours after the assessment date** or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (Defined by the policy)
- Midterm Test/Presentation/Group Project (**when** designated by the instructor as the one assessment that always requires documentation when requesting Academic Consideration)

Coursework with Assessment Flexibility:

By policy, Academic Consideration requests for the online quiz assessments will be denied due to their built-in flexibility.

Absences from Final Examinations:

When a student misses the Final Exam and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar ([Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

Special Examinations:

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates found [here](#).

Academic Accommodation and Accessible Education:

Academic accommodation is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”. [Western University Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Accessible Education ([Accessible Education](#)), at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students” <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html>

Religious Accommodations:

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Religious Accommodation requests for final exams should be submitted via the Student Absence Portal.

Academic Policies:

The website for Registrar Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy (https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf), 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.

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_offences.pdf.

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.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration; however, students are expected to uphold academic integrity, and assignments should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions. Please note that **the use of AI tools is strictly prohibited when completing the online quizzes**. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes and other materials used in preparing for assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

Support Services

Academic Counselling:

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and Sexual Violence:

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.

Learning Development and Success:

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.

USC:

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.