

# Classical Mythology



ca. 540-530 B.C.E.. Achilles and Ajax playing draughts, detail from an Attic black-figure amphora.  
[https://library.artstor.org/asset/AIC\\_970010](https://library.artstor.org/asset/AIC_970010)

**The University of Western Ontario**  
Classical Studies 2200-650, 2024-25  
Randall Pogorzelski

## Welcome

Welcome to Classical Mythology! This is a course designed for students with an interest in the myths of ancient Greece and Rome, but it doesn't require any specific background knowledge. If you're especially interested in ancient Greece and Rome, you should consider learning Latin and ancient Greek, but for this course all the readings are in English.

## Instructor



My name is Randall Pogorzelski, and I will be your instructor for this course. Please call me Randy. I've been working in Western's Department of Classical Studies since 2011. Before I came to Western, I was a Lecturer at Scripps College in Claremont, California, at the University of California, Irvine, and at the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales. I teach mostly classical Latin language and literature courses, but I also have some experience with Greek language and literature courses as well as ancient history courses. My research focus is on the poetry of the early Roman Empire, most especially Virgil and Lucan. I also have an interest in the use of classical literature and myth in modern literature and culture. I wrote my Ph.D. thesis at the University of California, Santa Barbara on Virgil and James Joyce, and I've taught courses including texts like *Watchmen* and *Frankenstein*. There are few things I enjoy more than talking about classical literature and history, so please feel free to contact me any time with questions about the course or about ancient Greece and Rome in general.

## Contact

Email (rpogorze@uwo.ca) is the best way to get in touch with me, but I'm also happy to talk in person or by Zoom. Sometimes talking about things is easier and better than trying to type everything. I'm in my office (Lawson Hall 3205B) a lot, so feel free to drop by any time. Or you can send me an email and we can set up a time for a chat. I will do my best to respond to emails within one business day, but I do not regularly check my email after 5pm, before 8am, on weekends, or on holidays. In some cases, I may ask a Teaching Assistant to respond to email instead of responding myself.

## Changes from Previous Versions of this Syllabus

This version of the syllabus was written in July of 2024 and replaces the preliminary version of the syllabus that was posted in May of 2024. In the time since the preliminary syllabus was posted, there have been some changes in Western policies that have prompted some changes in this syllabus. This version, which was posted online in July of 2024 and is available in the course OWL site, supersedes the preliminary version.

## Content Warning

This course will cover not only ancient material that includes depictions of violence, but also material about sensitive topics including racism, colonialism, suicide, sexual assault, and gender-based violence. If you believe that lecture material on some topic(s) may cause you harm, please let me know so that we can discuss possible accommodations.

## How to Study and Complete the Course

This course will have a regular, weekly structure. Each week there will be a reading assignment, an audio recording of a lecture, and a set of PowerPoint slides designed to accompany the lecture. You will find links to the assigned reading, the slides, the lectures, and transcripts of the lectures on the OWL site. Once you have read the assignment and listened to the lecture, you will need to take an online quiz by **4pm on Thursday**. In addition to the online quizzes, there will be an online test in October, an **in-person exam during the December examination period**, and an **in-person exam during the April examination period**.

Each student will find reading and study techniques that work for them, and what works well for one student may or may not work well for others. The quizzes and the October test should help you to check how well you're learning the material. They'll give you a sense of what the exam questions will be like. You have some time before the December exam to try out a few things and see what works best for you.

One study technique I might suggest is talking with another person about the course. Learning works best when it's a social process, and one of the disadvantages of an asynchronous course is that you don't have to spend any time with your classmates. If you know someone else in the course, it would be a good idea to spend some time talking with them about the course, and whether you know any of your classmates or not, you might try explaining some of the course material to a friend who is not in the course. For more techniques for reading and studying, you might look into Western's "Learning Development and Success" (<https://learning.uwo.ca>).

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, you will be familiar with the major characters and stories of Greek and Roman myth, with the most important ancient sources of our knowledge about Greek and Roman myth, and with a selection of methods for interpreting Greek and Roman myth.

You will be able to discuss key texts and ideas about Greek and Roman mythology. When topics like the Greek gods or Bacchanalian parties come up in conversation, you should be able to make comparisons of modern ideas with ancient ones using specific examples.

More generally and more importantly, you will have improved your ability to analyze texts and other cultural phenomena. Sources are not always straightforward or trustworthy, and you will practice "reading against the grain," i.e., reading sources to find out more than just what they want to tell you. In the process you will have improved your skills in critical thinking and analysis—skills which are transferrable to a variety of fields of study and professional employment, and which will improve your appreciation of any text.

Most importantly, this course aims to develop an ongoing interest in ancient Greek and Roman cultures. It will be work, but it should also be fun, and I hope you will leave this course with a desire to learn more about Classical Studies, whether you plan to take more courses in the area or not.

## Required Texts

There are no books you are required to buy for this course. All of the assigned readings are from the Loeb Classical Library, to which Western has an institutional subscription. If you'd like, you can buy the physical books, but the complete Loeb Classical Library is online and accessible through Western Libraries.

## Schedule of Reading Assignments and Lecture Topics

Please note that the reading assignment page numbers are in the Loeb Classical Library. Because the books have the ancient Greek or Latin on the left-hand pages and the English translation on the right-hand pages, you only need to read every other page. That means that the assignments are only about half as long as they seem from the page numbers listed below.

### Week 0 (September 5-6)

Although classes officially begin on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be no course content for this week in this course. We will begin the course with the first full week of classes.

### Week 1 (September 9-13)

Reading Assignment: This course syllabus

Lecture Topic: Introduction to the course

**Special Note: There will be no quiz this week.**

### Week 2 (September 16-20)

Reading Assignment: Hesiod, *Theogony*, pages 3-85 (note that this is only about 40 pages of actual reading). The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/hesiod-theogony/2018/pb\\_LCL057.3.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/hesiod-theogony/2018/pb_LCL057.3.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Greek Gods and the Creation of the World

### Week 3 (September 23-27)

Reading Assignment: Hesiod, *Works and Days*, pages 87-109. The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/hesiod-works\\_days/2018/pb\\_LCL057.87.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/hesiod-works_days/2018/pb_LCL057.87.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myth, Ritual, and Religion

### Week 4 (October 1-4)

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: A Brief History of Ancient Greece and Rome

### Week 5 (October 7-11)

Reading Assignment: Apollodorus, *Library*, pages 171-277. The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/apollodorus\\_mythographer-library/1921/pb\\_LCL121.171.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/apollodorus_mythographer-library/1921/pb_LCL121.171.xml)

Lecture Topic: Sources for Mythology and the Story of Heracles

### Reading Week (October 12-20)

**Week 6 (October 21-25)**

Reading Assignment: Seneca, *Hercules Furens*, pages 15-127. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/seneca\\_younger-hercules/2018/pb\\_LCL062.15.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/seneca_younger-hercules/2018/pb_LCL062.15.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Roman Hercules

**Week 7 (October 28-November 1)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: No lecture for this week

**Special Note: There will be no quiz this week. Instead, there will be a test available from 9am on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and due by 4pm on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Week 8 (November 4-8)**

Reading Assignment: *Homeric Hymn 2: To Demeter*, pages 33-71. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homeric\\_hymns\\_2\\_demeter/2003/pb\\_LCL496.33.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homeric_hymns_2_demeter/2003/pb_LCL496.33.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Homeric Hymns and the Olympian Gods

**Week 9 (November 11-15)**

Reading Assignment: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* book 3, pages 125-175. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb\\_LCL042.125.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb_LCL042.125.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Thebes and Structuralism

**Week 10 (November 18-22)**

Reading Assignment: Euripides, *Bacchae*, pages 13-153. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/euripides-bacchae/2003/pb\\_LCL495.13.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/euripides-bacchae/2003/pb_LCL495.13.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Thebes and an Introduction to Greek Tragedy

**Week 11 (November 25-29)**

Reading Assignment: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, pages 327-483. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/sophocles-oedipus\\_tyranus/1994/pb\\_LCL020.327.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/sophocles-oedipus_tyranus/1994/pb_LCL020.327.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Thebes and Psychoanalysis

**Week 12 (December 2-6)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: Review of the Fall Semester

**Special Note: There will be no quiz this week.**

**December exam date and time as scheduled by the registrar (The Special Examination to make up for this exam will be on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. See below for further details.)**

**Week 13 (January 6-10)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: Overview of Greek and Roman Visual Art



**Week 14 (January 13-17)**

Reading Assignment: Euripides, *Medea*, pages 285-413. The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/euripides-medea/1994/pb\\_LCL012.285.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/euripides-medea/1994/pb_LCL012.285.xml)

Lecture Topic: Jason, Medea, and the Argonauts

**Week 15 (January 20-24)**

Reading Assignment: Homer, *Iliad*, books 1 and 6, pages 13-59 and 275-313. Book 1 starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb\\_LCL170.13.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb_LCL170.13.xml)

Book 6 starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb\\_LCL170.275.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb_LCL170.275.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Troy and Introduction to Greek Epic

**Week 16 (January 27-31)**

Reading Assignment: Homer, *Iliad*, books 22 and 24, pages 453-491 and 563-623. Book 22

starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb\\_LCL171.453.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb_LCL171.453.xml)

Book 24 starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb\\_LCL171.563.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-iliad/1924/pb_LCL171.563.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myths of Troy and the Importance of Storytelling

**Week 17 (February 3-7)**

Reading Assignment: Homer, *Odyssey*, books 9 and 11, pages 317-357 and 401-447. Book 9

starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb\\_LCL104.317.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb_LCL104.317.xml)

Book 11 starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb\\_LCL104.401.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb_LCL104.401.xml)

Lecture Topic: Odysseus and the Hero's Journey

**Week 18 (February 10-14)**

Reading Assignment: Homer, *Odyssey*, books 19 and 22, pages 235-279 and 345-383. Book 19

starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb\\_LCL105.235.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb_LCL105.235.xml)

Book 22 starts here: [https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb\\_LCL105.345.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/homer-odyssey/1919/pb_LCL105.345.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Penelope Question

**Reading Week (February 15-23)****Week 19 (February 24-28)**

Reading Assignment: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*, pages 3-205. The assignment starts here:

[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/aeschylus-oresteia\\_agamemnon/2009/pb\\_LCL146.3.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/aeschylus-oresteia_agamemnon/2009/pb_LCL146.3.xml)

Lecture Topic: Tantalus and his Descendants

**Week 20 (March 3-7)**

Reading Assignment: Virgil, *Aeneid*, book 1, pages 263-315. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/virgil-aeneid/1916/pb\\_LCL063.263.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/virgil-aeneid/1916/pb_LCL063.263.xml)

Lecture Topic: Roman Myth and Roman Receptions of Greek Myth

**Week 21 (March 10-14)**

Reading Assignment: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, book 1, pages 3-57. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb\\_LCL042.3.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb_LCL042.3.xml)

Lecture Topic: The Roman Gods and the Creation of the World

**Week 22 (March 17-21)**

Reading Assignment: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, book 6, pages 289-339. The assignment starts here:  
[https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb\\_LCL042.289.xml](https://www.lib.uwo.ca/cgi-bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=https://www.loebclassics.com/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb_LCL042.289.xml)

Lecture Topic: Myth and Injustice

**Week 23 (March 24-28)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week

Lecture Topic: Modern Receptions of Classical Mythology

**Week 24 (March 31-April 4)**

Reading Assignment: No reading assignment for this week.

Lecture Topic: Review of the Winter Semester

**Special Note: There will be no quiz this week.**

**April exam date and time as scheduled by the registrar (The Special Examination to make up for this exam will be on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. See below for further details.)**

**Assessment and Grading**

The components of your grade in this course will be weekly quizzes, a test in October, an exam in December, and an exam in April. Having your performance in a course assessed and graded can be stressful, but please try to keep in mind that grades are an important part of your university experience. You're here not only to learn, but also to have your level of success in learning assessed. Think of having your work graded as an opportunity to show what you've learned. Also, remember that your grades are a measure of your academic performance and not a judgment of you as a person.

**Percentage Breakdown**

Weekly Quizzes: 10%

October Test: 10%

December Exam: 40%

April Exam: 40%

## Quizzes

In most weeks of this course, you will have a quiz **due by 4pm on Thursday**. The quizzes will be available in OWL beginning at 9am on the Friday of the week before they are due. They will be untimed, and they will be graded automatically by OWL. You will be allowed to use any materials you'd like for the quizzes, including books, notes, AI tools, the internet, and collaboration with other people. I would only ask that you honestly try to engage with the material yourself, and when you're helping a classmate, please help them to find the right answer rather than just telling them what it is.

You will receive your score immediately and you will be able to redo each quiz as many times as you'd like, but your final attempt will have to be submitted before the quiz closes. Only your fifteen best quiz scores will count, and your lowest five scores will be dropped. Because the quizzes are designed so everyone can get 100%, you should be able to skip five quizzes without suffering any penalty.

The reason I will drop the five lowest quiz scores is so that you do not need to make up quizzes that you have missed. **You will not be allowed to make up any missed quizzes for any reason.** No quiz submission deadlines will be extended for any student for any reason. The only possible flexibility in the deadlines for quiz submission is that five quiz scores will be dropped.

## October Test

On Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am, a test will be available to you in OWL. **The test will be due by 4pm on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.** There will, however, be no penalty for submitting the test up to four weeks late, by 4pm on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. There is no need to contact me or request academic consideration for the test if you miss the initial deadline of October 31<sup>st</sup>. Any student may submit the test late (up to 4pm on November 28<sup>th</sup>) for any reason and without the need to contact anyone. Because of this flexibility in the submission deadline, **no academic consideration will be granted for this test for any reason.** The only flexibility in the deadline will be that you may submit the test up to two weeks late without any penalty. If you do not submit the October test by 4pm on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, your grade for the test will be 0%.

The test will cover all course material from the beginning of the semester. It will be made up of twenty multiple-choice questions. The test will be untimed, and it will be graded automatically by OWL. You will be allowed to use any materials you'd like for the test, including books, notes, AI tools, the internet, and collaboration with other people. You will be allowed to attempt and submit the test as many times as you'd like, and only your highest score will count toward your course grade. I expect that almost all students will achieve a grade of 100% for the test. In other words, the test will be like the quizzes, except that it will have more questions, cover more material, and be worth a larger portion of your course grade.

I will not adjust any grades or allow any consideration for technical problems with the test. If you experience technical difficulties during the test, the Western Technology Services Help Desk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/index.html>) may be able to help you. You may find some helpful tips for avoiding technical difficulties here: <https://wts.uwo.ca/elearning/posts/online-exams.html>.



The purpose of the test is to give you a sense of how you are doing before the deadline to drop the course without academic penalty. The 10% for this test plus the quizzes in the weeks before the drop deadline add up to 16% of your grade for the course. The test questions will be like the questions on the December and April exams so that you have in October a low-stakes and low-stress introduction to the kinds of questions I will ask on the exams. Be aware, however, that the December and April exams will be more difficult than the October test because the test will allow you to use books, notes, AI tools, websites, and collaboration with other people, but none of those aids will be available to you for the exams in December and April.

## December and April Exams

The Office of the Registrar will schedule an **in-person** exam for our course in the December Examination Period and another **in-person** exam in the April Examination Period. The December exam will cover all course material from the fall semester. The April exam will cover all course material from the winter semester, but not material from the fall semester.

You must bring your Western ID card and a pencil or pen (a pencil is recommended in case you make a mistake or change your mind about an answer) to the exams. You will be required to sign a nominal roll sheet during the exams. You will also be required to mark your answers both on the test paper and on a bubble sheet that will be used for grading using Gradescope. If there are any problems with the bubble sheet, such as stray marks that make your answer potentially ambiguous, the software will flag the issue and I will review the sheet to make sure your answers are recorded correctly.

The December exam will be made up of 45 multiple-choice questions and the April exam will be made up of 50 multiple-choice questions. You will be allowed 120 minutes to complete each exam. **You will not be allowed to use any books, notes, or electronic devices during the exams, and you will not be allowed to collaborate with any of your classmates or with anyone else during the exams.** Neither I nor any of the proctors will answer any questions during the exams.

The questions on the exams will be similar to the questions on the quizzes and the October test, so the quizzes and test will give you a good idea of what kinds of questions to expect on the exams.

On both exams, there will be questions that rely on both the lectures and the assigned readings. I will not provide proportions of questions that test your knowledge of the lecture material and questions that test your knowledge of the assigned readings. In general, it will be necessary to know both the lecture material and the assigned readings to get a very high score on an exam, but you will get better value for the time spent reviewing the lectures than for the time spent reviewing the readings. If you were to study only the lectures but not do any of the assigned reading, you might not get an extremely high score, but you should be able to do reasonably well. If you were to study only the readings and not listen to any of the lectures, you would be unlikely to pass.

There will be questions on the exams that ask you about images or about passages from ancient texts. These questions may use images or passages from the lecture slides or passages from the

assigned readings. In addition, there may be questions that ask you to apply the knowledge you have gained from the lectures and readings to images or passages you have not seen before.

If you require any accommodations, including extra time accommodations, those must be arranged through Accessible Education ([http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)) and Accommodated Exams ([https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)).

## Special Examinations (If You Need to Make Up an Exam)

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. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found in the Academic Calendar under “Definitions of Types of Examinations (Including Special Examinations)” here:

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=5&Command=showCategory&Keywords=spc&SubHeadingID=70&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_70](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=5&Command=showCategory&Keywords=spc&SubHeadingID=70&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_70)

If you miss the December exam or the April exam for this course, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination, and they will require documentation of your reason for missing the exam. You may **not** request academic consideration for a December or April exam without documentation. You may also be eligible to write the Special Examination if you have an exam conflict or if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., 3 or more exams in a 23-hour period or 4 or more exams in a 47-hour period).

The Special Examinations for this course will have the same format as the regular examinations. According to the policy in the Academic Calendar, “Special Examinations must be written at the University or recognized exam center or an Affiliated University College, and supersede any lectures, tutorials, laboratories, etc., in which the student is registered. Note that students are responsible for any coursework, etc., missed while writing the Special Examination.” In other words, if you have to miss a scheduled class to write a Special Examination, your priority is the Special Examination.

**The Special Examination to make up for the December exam will be Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.** You may choose whether to write the Special Examination from 1:30-3:30pm or from 7-9pm. If you are unable to write the Special Examination on the scheduled date, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. You must request permission to write a different Special Examination, and you must provide documentation supporting your request. If you are granted permission to write the Special Examination on a different date, the next opportunity to write a Special Examination to make up for the December exam will be on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. You may

choose whether to write the Special Examination from 1:30-3:30pm or from 7-9pm. If you are unable to write the Special Examination on that date, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration again, you must provide documentation supporting your request again, and the next opportunity to write the exam will be during the December Examination Period the next time the course is offered.

**The Special Examination to make up for the April exam will be Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.** You may choose whether to write the Special Examination from 1:30-3:30pm or from 7-9pm. If you are unable to write the Special Examination on the scheduled date, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. You must request permission to write a different Special Examination, and you must provide documentation supporting your request. If you are granted permission to write the Special Examination on a different date, the next opportunity to write a Special Examination to make up for the April exam will be on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. You may choose whether to write the Special Examination from 1:30-3:30pm or from 7-9pm. If you are unable to write the Special Examination on that date, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration again, you must provide documentation supporting your request again, and the next opportunity to write the exam will be during the April Examination Period the next time the course is offered.

Please note from the policy in the Academic Calendar, “A student can be required to write up to two Special Examinations in a single day. Any outstanding Special Examinations will be deferred to the scheduled date of the final examination the next time the course is offered, and the maximum course load for that term reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred.”

## **Grading Policy: No Extra Credit or Reweighting**

In a course with hundreds of students, it is important to adhere strictly to policies that keep the course fair for all students and manageable for the instructor. For these reasons, I will not grant any extra credit, offer any additional assignments, or reweight your course grade. Even if you have an academic counsellor/advisor recommend that I reweight your course grade, I will not do so. The only academic consideration I will grant in this course is the opportunity to make up an exam that you missed, and I will grant that opportunity only if an academic counsellor/advisor recommends it.

It's also worth noting that in smaller courses, more flexibility that considers individual circumstances is possible. If you think you would benefit from that kind of flexibility, it's a good idea to seek out smaller courses. There are advantages for students taking large courses like this one, but those advantages come at the cost of some necessary inflexibility. For students who are interested in Classical Studies but prefer courses with a little more flexibility, I recommend any Classical Studies course with a number in the 3000s. These courses are open to students in years 2, 3, and 4, they do not require students to be enrolled in Classical Studies programs, and most do not have any prerequisites.

## Grading Policy: Rounding

Course grades in this course will be rounded to the nearest percent. Students occasionally cite this policy: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/general/grades\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/grades_undergrad.pdf). The policy includes at the bottom of page 4 this sentence: “Averages will be calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number with .45 rounded up.” That policy applies to the calculation of averages in your academic record, for purposes like determining eligibility for progression in modules or for awards. The policy does not apply to the calculation of course grades, and the standard practice at Western is to round grades to the nearest percent. That means that in this course, any grade with a .49 or below will be rounded down, and any grade with a .50 or above will be rounded up. For example, an 89.49% will be submitted to the registrar as an 89%, and an 89.50% will be submitted to the registrar as a 90%.

## Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence

During the December exam and the April exam, students may not use any digital tools, including any artificial intelligence tools. Those will be in-person exams, and no books, notes, or digital devices will be allowed. Apart from that, students may use any tools they like, including any artificial intelligence tools. Students may use these tools at any time, including using them for help while writing quizzes and the October test.

It is encouraged that students discuss the course material with other people, and when that is not possible, a chatbot is a good substitute. Learning is more effective when students are able to discuss course material in the physical presence of the people they’re talking to, and it’s also more effective when a conversation partner can remember previous conversations, but talking with a chatbot is better than not talking with anyone. As the technology improves, it may happen that in some cases talking with a chatbot is even more effective than talking with another person.

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

## Accommodation for Religious Holidays

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.

## Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

## Academic Consideration

Western's full Policy on Academic Consideration for undergraduate students in first-entry programs can be found here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

For this course, the only Academic Consideration possible will be an opportunity for a student to make up a missed exam, and that opportunity will only be granted on the recommendation of an academic counsellor or advisor from the student's Faculty of Registration.

If you miss the December exam or the April exam, you must contact the Academic Counselling or Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination. You may also be eligible to write the Special Examination if you have an exam conflict or if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., 3 or more exams in a 23-hour period or 4 or more exams in a 47-hour period).

## Mental Health

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

## Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentssupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).