

Earth Sciences 1022A (Earth Rocks!) Course Outline

1. Course Information

Course Information:

Earth Sciences 1022A

Academic Term: Fall 2026-27

Lecture Hours: In-person; Two 1 hr. lectures/week; 12:30-1:30 PM, MC-110

Laboratory Hours: In-person; One 2 hr. lab session/week (see Section 3 for schedule); B&GS1015

List of Prerequisites and Antirequisites

Prerequisites: None Antirequisites: ES1022B, ES1070A/B, ES1081A/B

Unless students have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from the Department of Earth Sciences to enroll in it, they may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on their academic record. This decision may not be appealed.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Cam Tsujita (Course Coordinator and Instructor)	ctsujita@uwo.ca	B&GS 1064	(519) 661-3198 (ES main office)	Mon., Wed. 1:30-3:30 pm or by appt.

Teaching Assistants (TAs)	Email
Fred Velez, Kyleshaquill	kfredvel@uwo.ca
Labrie, Joshua James	jlabrie5@uwo.ca
George, Lins	lgeorg23@uwo.ca
Sharifi, Shahba	sshari53@uwo.ca
Slabon, Maximus	mslabon2@uwo.ca
Rose Zhou, Zhiyu	zzhou666@uwo.ca

Note on emailing instructors/TAs: Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses and put the **course number Earth Sciences 1022A** in the subject line when contacting their instructors. If you have a question for which you would require a direct response from me (Cam, your instructor), feel free to email me at ctsujita@uwo.ca. TAs will not hold regular office hours. If you need to meet or discuss something with your TAs, please contact them directly to arrange a meeting.

Office Hours: If you would rather meet with your instructor (Cam Tsujita) in person, please come to regular office hours: **1:30-3:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays in Cam's office: B&GS1064.** If you would like to arrange a Zoom meeting instead, please email Cam Tsujita (ctsujita@uwo.ca) directly.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Objectives of this course: This course is designed to introduce students to the “stuff” the Earth is made of (minerals, rocks and associated materials), the significance of these materials to the understanding of the internal and external processes that shape the face of our highly dynamic planet, the many ways Earth's processes and materials affect the lives of humans (in the context of natural resources and natural disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes and floods), and major changes that have occurred in the Earth system over its ~4.6 billion year history.

Course-level learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and classify common minerals, rocks and other Earth materials based on their physical characteristics.
2. Describe how these materials (in item #1) are used in the interpretation of Earth's external and internal processes and geologic age.
3. Integrate observational and theoretical information to explain why and how natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, landslides) occur, how natural resources are formed, and how the Earth system has evolved through time.

Background Required: This course is intended for (but not limited to) students registered in faculties other than Science.

Delivery Format:

Lectures: In-Person; Tues. & Thurs. 12:30-1:30 pm; Middlesex College-110 (MC-110)

Lecture slides will be posted on OWL each week according to the course schedule below (Course Schedule for ES1022A).

Labs: Labs take place in B&GS1015. You have been assigned a specific lab section (numbered 002-007) in your timetable. For each section, there will be a Lead TA who will be introducing the labs and will be marking the lab assignments. If you have any questions for TAs about the labs (or lab tests), or need to arrange a make-up for a lab or lab test (with a valid reason for missing it) please contact the Lead TA. There will also be an assistant TA who will assist the Lead TA in helping students with the lab activities.

LAB SECTIONS	Lab Section 002 Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30 pm	Lab Section 003 Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 am	Lab Section 004 Wednesdays, 11:30 am -1:30 pm	Lab Section 005 Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 pm	Lab Section 006 Thursdays, 10:30 am-12:30 pm	Lab Section 007 Thursdays, 1:30-3:30 pm
Lead TA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Assistant TA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Laboratory assignments will be provided as downloadable pdf files on OWL. You will be required to print out the worksheets (which will be handed in for marking). It is recommended that students read lab assignments before the lab sessions to ensure they are prepared for the in-lab exercises.

Note: if you need to change the lab section you are officially registered in (according to the Office of the Registrar), you **must** ask your instructor for approval and make the change through the Office of the Registrar. This is because your TAs need to be able to keep track of exactly who is in each lab section. If approved, you must then confirm both your instructor and TAs of both sections of your intent to attend a different section.

Weekly Quizzes: Asynchronous Online (via Mastering Geology). Each week's quiz will open on Thursday at 12:00 am and will be due the following Thursday at 11:55 pm; see course schedule below).

Note on Learning Course Content: As with any university course, you are responsible for understanding **all** material presented in the lectures, so it is very important to dedicate a significant amount of time to attend all lectures (~ 1 hour for each lecture) and to read associated the supplementary material (e.g. e-text readings). Note that **some of the lectures cover topics that are treated only superficially in the text**. The exams will draw from material covered in the lectures, but the e-text readings, as well as exercises provided in Mastering Geology will provide additional background that will aid in the understanding of the concepts.

Course Schedule for ES1022A (2026)

Week	Day	Date of Lecture	Lecture Topics <i>(and Suggested Chapter Readings in "Earth" E-text)</i> Note lectures will be released and linked on OWL (in "Course Content" on the dates indicated). E-text readings should be done prior to attending the associated lectures.	Mastering Geology Quizzes (due by 11:55 pm on date indicated; always Thursday.	Lab Topics & Test / Exam Dates)	OWL Forums (due 11:55 pm on Thurs.)
Wk. 1 (Sept. 6-12)	Th	Sept. 10	Course Introduction	No quiz due	No Labs	No Forums
Wk. 2 (Sept. 13-19)	Tu	Sept. 15	Lecture 1: The Earth System <i>Chapter 1: An Introduction to Geology and Plate Tectonics</i>	Quiz 1: Intro, Minerals opens Th., Sept. 17, due Th., Sept 24	No Labs	Wk. 2 Forum opens (Th.)
	Th	Sept. 17	Lecture 2: Minerals <i>Chapter 2: Minerals: The Building Blocks of Rocks</i>			No Forum due
Wk. 3 (Sept. 20-26)	Tu	Sept. 22	Lecture 3: Igneous Rocks <i>Chapter 3: Igneous Rocks</i>	Quiz 1: Intro, Minerals due Th., Sept. 24. Quiz 2: Igneous Rocks, Volcanoes) opens Th., Sept. 24.	Attend Lab 1 (Minerals) Due at end of lab session (same day).	Wk. 2 Forum due (Th.)
	Th	Sept. 24	Lecture 4: Volcanoes <i>Chapter 4: Volcanoes and Volcanic Processes</i>			Wk. 3 Forum opens (Th.)
Wk. 4 (Sept. 27-Oct. 3)	Tu	Sept. 29	Lecture 5: Weathering and Sedimentary Rocks <i>Chapter 5: Weathering and Soil</i> <i>Chapter 6: Sedimentary Rocks</i>	Quiz 2: Igneous. Rocks + Volcanoes due Th., Oct. 1	No labs this week (due to National Day for Truth and	Wk. 3 Forum due (Th.)

	Th	Oct. 1	Lecture 6: Metamorphic Rocks <i>Chapter 7: Metamorphism and Metamorphic Rocks</i>	Quiz 3: Weathering, Sed. & Met. Rocks opens Th., Oct. 1	Reconciliation	Wk. 4 Forum opens (Th.)
Wk. 5 (Oct. 4-10)	Tu	Oct. 6	Lecture 7: Geologic Time <i>Chapter 8: Geologic Time</i>	Quiz 3: Weathering, Sed. Rocks, Met. Rocks due Th., Oct. 8. Quiz 4: Geo.Time, opens Th., Oct. 8.	Attend Lab 2 (Igneous Rocks) Due at end of lab session (same day).	Wk. 4 Forum due (Th.)
	Th	Oct. 8	Lecture 8: Deformation <i>Chapter 9: Crustal Deformation</i>			Wk 5 Forum opens (Th.)
Wk. 6 (Oct. 11-17)		Oct. 11-17	Fall Reading Week (No Lectures)	No new quiz		No new Forum
Wk. 7 (Oct. 18-24)	Tu	Oct. 20	Lecture 9: Earthquakes and Earth's Interior <i>Chapter 10: Earthquakes and Earth's Interior</i>	Quiz 4: Geologic.Time, due Th., Oct. 22. Quiz 5: Deformation opens Th., Oct. 22.	Attend Lab 3 (Sed. And Met. Rocks) Due at end of lab session (same day).	Wk 5 Forum due (Th.)
	Th	Oct. 22	Midterm Lecture Exam (regular class time, location TBA; (see OWL Announcements for Details)			Wk 7 Forum opens (Th.)
Wk. 8 (Oct. 25-31)	Tu	Oct. 27	Lecture 10: The Ocean Floor <i>Chapter 11: The Ocean Floor</i>	Quiz 5: (Deformation) due Th., Oct. 29. Quiz 6: Earthquakes and Earth's Interior opens Th., Oct. 29.	Lab Review (Labs 1-3)	Wk 7 Forum due (Th.)
	Th	Oct. 29	Lecture 11: Plate Tectonics <i>Chapter 12: Plate Tectonics: The Framework for Modern Geology</i>			Wk 8 Forum opens (Th.)
Wk. 9 (Nov. 1-7)	Tu	Nov. 3	Lecture 12: Mountain building <i>Chapter 13: Mountain Building and Continental Frameworks</i>	Quiz 6: Earthquakes and Earth's Interior) due Th., Nov. 5. Quiz 7: Ocean Floor + Plate Tectonics. opens Th., Nov. 5.	Lab Test 1 (minerals and rocks; labs 1-3 inclusive)).	Wk 8 Forum due (Th.)
	Th	Nov. 5	Lecture 13: Mass Wasting <i>Chapter 14: Mass Wasting: The Work of Gravity</i>			Wk 9 Forum opens (Th.)
Wk. 10 (Nov. 8-14)	Tu	Nov. 10	Lecture 14: Streams <i>Chapter 15: Running Water</i>	Quiz 7: Ocean Floor + Plate Tectonics due Th., Nov. 12 Quiz 8: Mass Wasting + Streams opens Th., Nov. 12.	Attend Lab 4 (Strat. Principles) Due at end of next lab session.	Wk 9 Forum opens (Th.)
	Th	Nov. 12	Lecture 15: Groundwater <i>Chapter 16: Groundwater</i>			Wk 10 Forum opens (Th.)
Wk. 11 (Nov. 15-21)	Tu	Nov. 17	Lecture 16: Glaciation <i>Chapter 17: Glaciers and Glaciation</i>	Quiz 8: Mass Wasting + Streams) due Th., Nov. 19.	Submit Lab 4 (Strat. Principles) Attend Lab 5 (Structural	Wk 10 Forum due (Th.)
	Th	Nov. 19	Lecture 17: Wind <i>Chapter 18: Deserts and Winds</i>			Wk 11 Forum

				Quiz 9: Groundwater + Glaciation opens Th., Nov. 19.	Geology)	opens (Th.)
Wk. 12 (Nov. 22-28)	Tu	Nov. 24	Lecture 18: Coastlines <i>Chapter 19: Shorelines</i>	Quiz 9: Groundwater + Glaciation due Th, Nov. 26 Quiz 10: Wind + Coastlines) opens Th., Nov, 26	Submit Lab 5 Attend Lab 6 (Geologic Maps)	Wk 11 Forum due (Th.)
	Th	Nov. 26	Lecture 19: Mineral Resources I <i>Chapter 20: Mineral and Energy</i> <i>Resources</i>			Wk 12 Forum opens (Th.)
Wk. 13 (Nov. 29- Dec. 5)	Tu	Dec. 1	Lecture 20: Mineral Resources II <i>Chapter 20: Mineral and Energy</i> <i>Resources</i>	Quiz 10: Wind + Coastlines due Th., Dec. 3 Quiz 11: Mineral Resources I + II opens Th., Dec. 3	Submit Lab 6 Lab Review (ahead of Lab Test 2, focusing on Labs 4-6)	Wk 12 Forum due (Th.)
	Th	Dec. 3	Lecture 21: Energy Resources <i>Chapter 20: Mineral and Energy</i> <i>Resources</i>			Wk 13 Forum opens (Th.)
Wk. 14 (Dec. 6-12)	Tu	Dec. 8	Catch up on any remaining lecture material. Q & A Review if any remaining time	Quiz 11 Mineral Resources I + II (due Th., Dec. 10)	Lab Test 2, focusing on Labs 4-6 (see OWL for details)	Wk 13 Forum due (Th.)

Key Sessional Dates

Classes begin: Wednesday, September 9

Last day to add a full course or first-term half course: (Thursday, September 17)

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

Thanksgiving: Monday, October 12, 2026

Fall Reading Week: October 11, 2026 to October 17, 2026

Last day to withdraw from a Fall 12-week course resulting in a grade of 'WDN': Monday, November 30, 2026

Classes end: Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence (or other public health crisis) during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

4. Course Materials

Required Materials (Student to Purchase):

Textbook (e-text): *Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology, Updated 4th Canadian Edition* (Tarbuck, Lutgens, Tsujita and Hicock, 2019) **with** **Mastering Geology**. Purchase access code via the

[Western Book Store](#) (link) . Important Note: When registering for **Mastering Geology**, you **must use your Western email address as your Pearson Account username**. **Course ID:** When prompted for course id in **Mastering Geology**, use: **tsujita31411**. Further instructions on ordering and registering this Pearson product (Mastering Geology with e-text) are provided on OWL. The cost of the digital package is \$80.00 CDN.

Note: Students must purchase this edition of this product. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient as this course requires the current version of Mastering Geology.

Lectures, lab assignments and other course materials: Other than the e-text and Mastering Geology, all essential course materials are made available on OWL (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>)

Important Announcements, News and Updates: Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) 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. Students are responsible for checking OWL on a regular basis.

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL Brightspace 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.

Technical Requirements:

If a health crisis lock-down necessitates migration of the course to an online format, it will be important to have a stable internet connection and a computer with working microphone and/or webcam to view lectures, labs and to online write exams.

5. Methods of Evaluation

As you will see below, we have allocated parts of your course grade to **multiple types of assessments distributed over the term. This is deliberate (and for your benefit)** This design allows students to work for marks in a larger number of smaller installments over time rather than fewer, larger assessments. This means that students have a reasonable opportunity to compensate for a poor grade in one or more of these assessments (e.g. midterm lecture exam or lab test). We regard this as preferable over fewer, higher-stakes, assessments.

Lecture Portion (70% final grade combined):

Weekly Online Quizzes (in Mastering Geology; (best 10 out of 11; see below): 10%

Weekly Online Brightspace Forum Participation (best 10 out of 11): 5%

Midterm Lecture Exam (up to and including “Deformation” lecture): 20%

Final Lecture Exam (cumulative, but focused on material after “Deformation” lecture): 35%

Lab Portion (30% final grade combined):

Weekly Lab Assignments (best 5 out of 6): 10%

*Lab Test 1 (on labs 1-3): 10%

*Lab Test 2 (focused on labs 4-6): 10%

***Note for students with accommodations**, please see policy on writing lab tests (which must be written in the lab room, but may be written at an alternate time) in Accommodation Policies

Major Test and Exam Dates*:

Lab Test 1: Week of Nov. 1-7, 2026, during your regularly scheduled lab session

Lab Test 2: Week of Dec. 6-12, 2026, during your regularly scheduled lab session

Midterm Lecture Exam (Regular Class Time; Location TBA: Thursday, Oct. 22 (tentative date)

Final Lecture Exam (In Person): TBA by Office of the Registrar

Essential Learning Requirements

Even when Academic Consideration is granted for missed coursework, the following are essential to earn a passing grade in this course:

- A minimum passing grade (50%) on the laboratory component (combined mark of Lab Tests 1 and 2 and best 5 out of 6 lab assignments) to ensure that students demonstrate sufficient mastery of those technical skills to progress. Even though the lowest lab assignment mark will be dropped, it is important to do all labs as material on all six labs will be covered on the lab tests.
- Both lab tests must be written to demonstrate a working understanding of the concepts covered in the lab content.
- The final lecture exam must be written (regardless of the mark outcome).

When a student has not demonstrated proficiency in an essential learning requirement listed above, and when the shortfall results from a granted Academic Consideration, they will be withdrawn (WDN) from the course. The student may appeal to the Associate Dean (Academic) for reinstatement with an Incomplete (INC) standing. Where an appeal for INC is granted, their maximum course load may be reduced during the term in which they complete the outstanding course requirements.

Online (Mastering Geology) quizzes

For the purpose of encouraging everyone to stay “on track” in learning the subject matter as it is covered, **online quizzes will be completed (via Mastering Geology)** by students on a weekly basis. There will be a total of 11 quizzes over the course of the term. For each of the weeks indicated above, you will complete the quiz by **11:55 pm on the date indicated above (which will always be a Thursday)**. Each quiz will be based on the lecture content covered the current and/or previous week. You will have approximately one week (and three (3)) attempts within this time to do each question of each quiz (so you can re-answer any questions you have answered incorrectly). Provided that you have done the e-text readings and have attended the lectures, it should be pretty easy to get good marks in these quizzes.

Participation in Brightspace OWL Forums

A small portion of the **Lecture Portion** grade (and 5% of the final grade based on the student’s best 10 out of 11 postings) will be based on student participation in Brightspace OWL Forum discussions. The forums will be monitored by the Instructor and Teaching Assistants to track discussions.

For each designated week (see Course Schedule above), you will be expected to:

1. Answer at least one question posted by your classmates, TA or instructor)
2. Post your own question.

The questions will pertain to the lecture and/or lab content of that week or previous week. You will be provided an initial prompting question at the very beginning of each week’s forum to start the discussion.

You will have one week to participate in each week's forum. To help you remember the "due date" for the forums, they will open and close on the same time and day as the quizzes (always on a Thursday).

Laboratories

Laboratory Assignments: Laboratory assignments will be provided as downloadable pdf files on OWL. You will be required to print out the worksheets (which will be handed in for marking). Note: Labs for this course will start on the 3rd week of classes (i.e., week beginning Sept. 20), so there will be no need for you to attend labs up until that week. The first three lab assignments will be directly handed in to presiding TA at the end of the lab session. The last three lab assignments, you will hand them in at beginning of your next regularly scheduled lab session prior to the pre-lab presentation (i.e., you will have one week to complete each lab assignment for labs 4,5 and 6).

If you miss, or anticipate missing, a lab due to medical (or other legitimate reasons), report your absence to the head (instructional) TA of the relevant lab within 48 hours of the lab assignment due date to arrange an alternate date to complete and submit the assignment(s). If you miss a lab test/exam, report to Academic Counselling with documentation for recommendation of Academic Accommodation (if approved, arrangements for an alternate date to write a make-up test/exam. Also advise your instructor and lead TA of your absence.

Format for Midterm and Final Lecture Exams: Both exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank & written answer questions. The Midterm (Lecture) Exam will be 50 minutes long and the Final (Lecture) Exam will be 2 hours long.

Use of Generative AI Tools

By policy, the standard statement on the use of generative AI must be listed in Section 6 of this course outline (please refer to Section 6 below).

Information About Missed Course Work

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs*, posted on the Academic Calendar:
https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.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/academic_considerations/
All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

Lecture Midterm

This course has one (1) midterm test and a **cumulative** final exam. There is no makeup test for a missed midterm. If a student misses a midterm, its weight will shift automatically to their final exam grade. If their final exam grade is higher than their midterm grade, their final exam grade will replace the

midterm's weight in their overall grade. They do not need to request Academic Consideration for a missed lecture midterm; the reweighing will be done automatically.

The only exception is an early sitting, offered solely for a university-sanctioned schedule conflict (e.g., conflict of two midterms, Varsity competitions) or a religious accommodation that prevents a student from writing the midterm at its scheduled time. If a student requires this accommodation, they must notify their instructor in writing no later than one week before the test. No other circumstance, including illness, qualifies for an early sitting or makeup; these are addressed through the automatic reweighing described above.

Labs and Quizzes

This course has 6 labs, 11 quizzes and 11 forum participation entries. Students are expected to complete at least 5 labs, 10 quizzes and 10 forum entries to receive full credit for this component. If they miss up to one of any of these, they do not need to request Academic Consideration; the missing item(s) will not count against them, and their grade for this component will be calculated from their best 5, 10 and 10 submissions of each of these components respectively.

If a student completes fewer than 10 of the total quizzes or forum entries or 5 of the lab assignments, the missing items will be recorded as a zero and included in their grade for this component. They are encouraged to submit all work, even if incomplete, since a partial mark is always better than a zero.

The skills assessed in the lab tests are essential to this course. They cannot be assessed through their midterm or final lecture exams. If a lab test is missed, students must seek permission from the instructor (ctsujita@uwo.ca) within 48 hours of the lab test for alternative arrangements. Instructor approval is absolutely essential for such considerations to be granted.

Deadlines: The 48-Hour No-Late-Penalty Period

All take-home assignments, quizzes, labs and forums with a stated due date include an automatic 48-hour period after the deadline during which students may still submit without a late penalty. For example, if an assignment is due on November 5, they may submit it until November 7 without penalty. After this 48-hour period, no further submissions will be accepted (i.e. no extensions granted beyond this point) and students do not need to request Academic Consideration for a missed deadline; their grade for this component will be calculated as described above. Note that this 48-hour No Late Penalty Period **does not include the lab tests** (for which you must inform your instructor at least 48 hours of the time and date of the test)

Special Examination

Per university policy, Academic Consideration requests with supporting documentation are required for the final examinations scheduled during official examination periods by the Registrar's Office. **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/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline via the Student Absence Portal (SAP).

If the student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office to write a Special Examination (SPC) and the final exam is their only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned to them and scheduled by the instructor per university policy.

If the student misses their SPC exam and is approved for Academic Consideration, they will be withdrawn from the course without academic penalty. If they experienced extenuating circumstances such as prolonged illness, they may appeal to the Associate Dean (Academic), on a case-by-case basis, for the opportunity to write the final exam the next time the course is offered. An outstanding SPC will reduce their course load for the term in which the exam is deferred, as outlined in the [Definitions of Types of Examinations](#) policy.

If the student misses their SPC exam and Academic Consideration is not approved, or was not requested, they will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

Academic Consideration

If you will be temporarily absent due to extenuating circumstances and miss a course-related component or assessment, you must report your absence by using the **Student Absence Portal**. The Student Absence Portal creates an official record of your absence in support of a formal request for academic consideration and includes a self-attestation, information on the course(s) and course component(s) or assessment(s), and any supporting documentation (as relevant). You can submit your request to the Student Absence Portal here: https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html

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/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.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](#).

6. Additional Statements

6.1 Religious Accommodation

When a recognized religious holiday either requires a student to be absent from the University, or requires or prohibits an activity that makes it impossible for them to complete an academic requirement scheduled that day, they are entitled to accommodation. No student will be penalized for an absence for religious reasons, and an alternative means of satisfying the requirement will be arranged. This accommodation is provided in accordance with the University's policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays:

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

The student should submit their requests through the Student Absence Portal (SAP), identifying the conflict and the specific course component(s) affected (e.g., test, midterm, exam).

Midterms and Tests: If a religious observance conflicts with a midterm test, they must submit their request no later than **one week** before the test. Their instructor will arrange an early sitting of the test. As set out above, no makeup test is offered for any other reason; this early sitting is available specifically for this accommodation.

Final Examinations: If a religious observance conflicts with the final exam, the student must submit their request no later than **two weeks** before the exam. Their instructor will arrange a Special Examination to take place no later than one month after the end of the examination period.

Students are responsible for finding out what was covered in any class they miss due to a religious observance, and for taking the appropriate steps to keep up with the course.

If a suitable arrangement cannot be reached between a student and their instructor, they should consult the Undergraduate Chair of the department offering the course, and if necessary, the Associate Dean (Academic) of the Faculty of Science.

For a list of recognized religious observances, please visit the calendars posted on the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion website - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca> (About Us – Resources – Additional Resources – Calendars).

6.2 Academic Accommodation Policies

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

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

6.3 General Academic Policies

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

Use of @uwo.ca email: 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 email address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that emails received from the University at their official university address are attended to in a timely manner.

Requests for Relief (formally known as “appeals”)

Policy on Request for Relief from Academic Decision:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/requests_for_relief_from_academic_decisions.pdf

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

6.4 Scholastic Offences

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Use of Electronic Devices During Assessments

In courses offered by the Faculty of Science, the **possession** of unauthorized electronic devices during any in-person assessment (such as tests, midterms, and final examinations) is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, hidden cameras and wireless earbuds.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise in advance by the instructor, the presence of any such device at a student's desk, on their person, or within reach during an assessment will be treated as a scholastic offence, **even if the device is not in use**.

Effective September 2026, the typical penalty for this offence is a failing grade in the course AND a 12-month prohibition on retaking the course.

Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is their responsibility to review and comply with these expectations.

Use of Generative AI Tools

Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is **not permitted** in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a **scholastic offence**.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume that use is prohibited. It is the student's responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

Use of Software for Assessments

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

If deemed necessary in the event of a medical emergency (lockdown), tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, students are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that they will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require them to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

<https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

6.5 Support Services

Academic Advising. Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, requests for relief, exam conflicts, and many other academic-related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/advising/>.

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 (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If a student has experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), they can 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.

Accessibility for Coursework. A student may contact the course instructor if they require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to them. If they have any questions regarding accommodations, they may also contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Learning Development and Success. Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help students improve their learning skills. The facility offers 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.

Student Councils.

Student-run support services are offered by the University Students' Council (<https://westernusc.ca>) and the Science Students' Council (<https://www.westernssc.ca>).

This course is supported by the Science Student Donation Fund. Students registered in the Faculty of Science or the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry contribute a Science Student Donation Fee. This fee contributes to the Science Student Donation Fund, which is administered by the Science Students' Council (SSC). One or more grants from the Fund have allowed for the purchase of equipment integral to teaching this course. Students may opt out of the Fee by the end of September of each academic year by completing the online form linked from the Faculty of Science's Academic Advising site. For further information on the process of awarding grants from the Fund or how these grants have benefitted undergraduate education in this course, consult the Chair of the Department or email the Science Students' Council at info@westernssc.ca.