

EARTH SCIENCES 2200A: FUNDAMENTALS OF EARTH SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE (SYLLABUS)

1. Course Information

Course Information

Earth Sciences 2200A

Lectures: In Person, 2 hrs./week (Mon., Wed., 11:30 am -12:30 pm; NCB-117)

Laboratory Hours: In person, 3 hrs./week

Sec. 002: Tues., 2:30-5:30 pm; B&GS1053

Sec. 003: Wed., 2:30-5:30 pm; B&GS1053

List of Prerequisites:

Any 0.5 Earth Sciences course at the 1000 level, or registration in any module within the Faculty of Science (or in the Basic Medical Sciences), or permission of the Department.

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course or written special permission from the Department of Earth Sciences to enroll in it, they may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on their academic record.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 (preferred contact)	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Cam Tsujita	ctsujita@uwo.ca	B&GS1064	519-661-3187	M,W 1:30-3:30 pm
TAs				
Amanda Pritiko-Morton: apritiko@uwo.ca	apritiko@uwo.ca			
Mackenzie Russell:	mrusse87@uwo.ca			
Robert Silber:	rsilber3@uwo.ca			

Note: Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses and put the **course number Earth Sciences 2200A** 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.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Objectives of this course: This is a comprehensive geology course that covers geological processes and products in the context of Plate Tectonics. The course strives to enable students to identify minerals and classify important rock types of Earth's crust, and to understand the tectonic environments and processes in which different rock types are formed, deformed, and transformed. To attain these goals, students will receive feedback on their techniques through weekly labs.

Note: this course may be used as an entry course for any Earth Sciences program.

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

1. Describe, identify and classify important minerals, rocks, and other Earth materials and interpret their modes of formation based on their observed characteristics.
2. Apply fundamental geologic concepts and methods to the interpretation of the spatial and temporal distribution of rocks, geologic structures, fossils, and geologic resources, as represented in geologic maps and cross-sections.
3. Relate lithologic and structural characteristics of rocks and their successions to plate tectonic processes and environments.

Background Required: This course is intended for (but not limited to) students in the Faculty of Science and/or with a first year-level background in Earth Sciences.

Required text (E-text: (see below in "Course Materials"))

Lectures: In-Person, Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30 am -12:30 pm, NCB-117 Lecture slides will be posted on OWL at least 24 hours before each lecture date indicated in the course schedule below (Course Schedule for ES2200A).

Labs: You will be attending one (1) lab session per week as per your assigned time according to your official course timetable (i.e., one of two sections – (Lab Sec. 002 (Tues. 2:30-5:30) or Lab Sec. 003 (Wed., 2:30-5:30 pm)). **Both held in B&GS-1053 (B&GS main floor).**

Teaching Assistants: see first page of course outline.

Lab preparation: It is recommended that students read lab assignments and complete as much of the lab they can before the lab sessions. The lab assignment outline for each lab will be posted at least 24 hours prior to the lab period on OWL Brightspace..

*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 with both your instructor and TAs of both sections about 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). Each quiz will be based on material covered in the current and/or previous week's lectures.

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 attend all lectures and labs

and to read the associated supplementary material (e.g. e-text readings). Note that **some of the lectures cover topics that are treated only superficially in the text (and vice versa)**. 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 ES2200A (2026)

Note: The following schedule is tentative and subject to change if deemed necessary by the instructor (keep track of any announcements regarding possible changes). The instructor will adhere to this schedule as closely as possible. However, there may be times in which a particular lecture is longer than anticipated and may therefore “overflow” into another (e.g. if a lecture is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances such as a “snow day,” if a longer time is needed to help everybody understand an important concept, or if an interesting discussion arises). Please be patient; we will do our very best to catch up if we do fall behind.

And just as a reminder: **Do not treat the slide handouts as a substitute for attending lectures! Doing so will be almost guaranteed to result in a significantly lower mark than desired.** Material covered on the midterm exam and Final Theory Exam will be based not only on textbook readings (and any additional homework readings assigned), but also material covered in the lectures themselves (which may not be covered in the readings). So it is in your best interests that you attend ALL lectures and labs. **Weekly online quizzes will be done via Mastering Geology**, so it is also important to visit that site to ensure you are aware of quiz deadlines.

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).	Mastering Geology Quizzes (due by 11:55 pm on date indicated; always on Thursday).	Lab Topics & Test / Exam Dates)
Wk. 1 (Sept. 6-12)	W	Sept. 9	Course Introduction: Fundamentals of Earth Sciences	No quiz this week	No Labs this week
Wk. 2 (Sept. 13-19)	M	Sept. 14	Minerals: The Building Blocks of Rocks	No quiz this week	No Labs this week
	W	Sept. 16	Minerals: The Building Blocks of Rocks, cont’d		
Wk. 3 (Sept. 20-26)	M	Sept. 21	Igneous Rocks and Volcanism	Quiz 1 (Course Introduction and Minerals) opens Th., Sept. 24.	Lab this week: Lab 1: Mineral Properties & Identification (2 week lab). Lead TA: Assistant TAs:
	W	Sept. 23	Igneous Rocks and Volcanism, cont’d.		
Wk. 4 (Sept. 27-Oct. 3)	M	Sept. 28	Sedimentary Rocks	Quiz 1 (Course Introduction and Minerals) due Th., Oct. 1 Quiz 2 (Igneous Rocks and Volcanism) opens Th., Oct. 1	No Labs this Week (due to National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30).
	W	Sept. 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No Lecture)		

Wk. 5 (Oct. 4-10)	M	Oct. 5	Sedimentary Rocks, cont'd	Quiz 2 (Igneous Rocks and Volcanism) due Th., Oct. 8	Lab this week: Lab 1: Mineral Properties & Identification, cont'd Lead TA: Assistant TAs:
	W	Oct. 7	Sedimentary Rocks, cont'd	Quiz 3 (Sedimentary Rocks) opens Th., Oct. 8	
Wk. 6 (Oct. 11-17)	M	Oct. 12	Fall Reading Week (No lectures)	.No Quiz	No lab this week
	W	Oct. 14	Fall Reading Week (No lecture)		
Wk. 7 (Oct. 18-24)	M	Oct. 19	Metamorphic Rocks	Quiz 3 (Sedimentary Rocks) due Th., Oct. 22. Quiz 4 (Metamorphic Rocks) opens Th., Oct. 22	Lab this week: Lab 2: Igneous Rocks & Minerals Lead TA: Assistant TA:
	W	Oct. 21	Metamorphic Rocks, cont'd		
Wk. 8 (Oct. 25-31)	M	Oct. 26	Geologic Maps and Geologic Time	Quiz 4 (Metamorphic Rocks) due Th., Oct. 29. Quiz 5 (Geologic Time) opens Th., Oct. 29.	Lab this week: Lab 3: Sedimentary Rocks & Minerals Lead TA: Assistant TAs: Lab this week:
	W	Oct. 28	In-class Midterm Lecture Exam 11:30 am- 12:20 pm (regular lecture room)		
Wk.9 (Nov. 1-7)	M	Nov. 2	Geologic Maps and Geologic Time, cont'd	Quiz 5 (Geologic Time) due Th., Nov. 5 Quiz 6 (Rock and Time Relations) opens Th., Nov. 5	Lab 4: Metamorphic Rocks & Minerals Lead TA: Assistant TAs:
	W	Nov. 4	Deformation Processes and Structures		
Wk. 10 (Nov. 8-14)	M	Nov. 9	The Ocean Floor and Associated Features	Quiz 6 (Rock and Time Relations) due Th., Nov. 12 Quiz 7 (Deformation) opens Th., Nov. 12	Midterm Lab Test Begin Lab 5: Geologic Maps and Structures in remaining lab time (2 week lab). Co-Lead TAs: split duties) Assistant TA:
	W	Nov. 11	The Evolution of Plate Tectonics		
Wk. 11 (Nov. 15-21)	M	Nov. 16	The Evolution of Plate Tectonics, cont'd	Quiz 7 (Deformation) due Th., Nov. 19. Quiz 8 (Ocean Floor) opens Th., Nov. 19	Lab this week: Finish Lab 5: Geologic Maps and Structures, cont'd Co-Lead TAs: split duties) Assistant TA:
	W	Nov. 18	Isostasy and Mountain Building		
Wk. 12 (Nov. 22-28)	M	Nov. 23	The Evolution of Continents	Quiz 8 (Ocean Floor) due Th., Nov. 26	Lab this week:
	W	Nov. 25	Mineral Resources		

				Quiz 9 (Plate Tectonics/ Mountain Building) opens Th., Nov. 26.	Lab 6: Continental Crust and Passive Margins Lead TA: Assistant TAs:
Wk. 13 (Nov. 29- Dec. 5)	M	Nov. 30	Mineral Resources, cont'd	Quiz 9 (Plate Tectonics/ Mountain Building) due Th., Dec. 3 Quiz 10 (Evolution of Continents) opens Th., Dec. 3.	Lab this week: Lab 7: Active Margins Lead TA: Assistant TAs:
	W	Dec. 2	Energy Resources, cont'd		
Wk. 14 (Dec. 6-12)		Dec. 7	Energy Resources, cont'd	Quiz 10 (Evolution of Continents) due Th., Dec. 10. Quiz 11 (bonus quiz) (Mineral Resources) opens Th., Dec.10, due Th., Dec. 17).	Final Lab Test (No lab this week)
		Dec. 9	Complete any remaining lecture material.		
Final Exam: Tentative TBA (see https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/Exams/)					

Key Sessional Dates

Classes begin: September 9, 2026

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

Thanksgiving: Monday, October 12, 2026

Fall Reading Week: October 10, 2026 to October 18, 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

4. Course Materials

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**. When prompted for **course id**, use: **tsujita44888**. Further instructions on ordering and registering this Pearson product (Mastering Geology with e-text) are provided on OWL. The cost of the product 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.

If you took Earth Sciences 1022A/B last year (Fall/Winter 2025-26) and purchased this product, you should still have access to Mastering and the e-text (and do not need to re-purchase it). Just log in with the same username and the course ID above (tsujita44888)

Other required materials:

10x (or better) hand lens (will be available for purchase from Outcrop Club)(**recommended**)

Lectures, lab assignments and other course materials: Other than the e-text and Mastering Geology, all essential course materials are made available on OWL Brightspace

(<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>)

1. Lab assignment outlines (to be posted on OWL Brightspace prior to each lab)

PowerPoint slides for note-taking in lectures will be available online on Western University's OWL site at least one day prior to each lecture

2. Laboratory Assignments: As indicated in the "other required materials" section above, students will download lab assignment outlines from OWL. It is the responsibility of each student to download and print his/her own copy of each

assignment prior to the relevant lab session.

Note: Labs for this course will start on Tuesday the week of Sept. 20-26, 2026, so there will be no need for you to attend labs until your first official lab period (Tues., Sept. 22 or Wed., Sept 23).

Important Announcements, News and Updates: Students should check OWL

(<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>) 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.

OWL Brightspace Assistance: If students need assistance, they can seek support on the OWL 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:

As parts of this entire course are delivered online (e.g. Mastering Geology Quizzes) it is important to have a stable internet connection. If a health lockdown occurs, forcing all course material to be delivered online, a computer with working microphone and/or webcam will be essential.

All course material (*other than the text and Mastering Geology quizzes*) 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.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates

Grading Scheme (and significant dates)

- 1) **Weekly Laboratory Assignments** (best 5 out of 7) **(20%)** Due at the end of each lab session
- 2) **In-Class Midterm Lecture Exam (15%)*** Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026 (11:30 am)
- 3) **Midterm Lab Test (10 %)** Tues. Nov. 10 / Wed., Nov.11, 2026 (1st hour of lab session)
- 4) **Final Lab Test (15%)** Tues., Dec. 8/ Wed., Dec. 9, 2026 (Regular lab time)
- 5) **Final Lecture Exam (35%)** During the December exam period (TBA)
- 6) **Mastering Geology Quizzes (5%)**** (best 10 out of 11) Due 11:55 pm, Thursday of each week

Note for students with accommodations: Both lab tests **must** be physically written in a lab room in the B&GS building as they require the examination of rock and mineral specimens so cannot be written with accommodated exams. If accommodations are required (provided that you are formally registered with Accessible Education), you may make advance arrangements with the instructor to write lab tests at a separate time.

Tentative List of Topics (covered on lecture and lab tests/exams)

The **Midterm Lecture Exam** will cover the lectures: Course Introduction up to and including all of Sedimentary Rocks

The **Midterm Lab Test** will cover Lab 1 (Mineral Properties & Identification) and Lab 2 (Igneous Rocks and Minerals)

The **Final Lecture Exam** will be cumulative (all course lectures) but will focus on lectures from Metamorphic Rocks up to and including all of Energy Resources

The **Final Lab Test** will cover all labs, but will focus on Lab 3 (Sedimentary Rocks & Minerals) to Lab 7 (Active Margins).

Essential Learning Requirements

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

- 5 out of 7 lab assignments must be completed (note: if students miss a lab, they are still responsible for understanding the content of all lab assignments (will be covered on lab tests).

- Both midterm and final lab tests must be written (regardless of mark received)

- Lecture final exam must be written with a minimum grade of 50%.

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.

Information about 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://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 1 midterm exam and a **cumulative** final exam. There is no makeup test for the missed lecture midterm. If a student misses the lecture 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.

Lab Assignments

This course has 7 labs. Students are expected to complete and submit at least 5 out of 7 lab assignments to receive full credit for this component. If they miss up to 2 out of the full 7 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 submissions.

Lab Tests

The midterm and final lab tests are **essential requirements** of this course. If a student misses either or both tests, they will be offered a make-up opportunity or a rescheduled date close to the date of the original lab test. The student **must request Academic Consideration through SAP** to access this opportunity for **both lab tests**.

If a student completes fewer than 5 of the total lab assignments (7), the missing lab assignments will be recorded as a zero and included in their laboratory grade for this component. They are encouraged to submit all work, even if incomplete, since a partial mark is always better than a zero. If their final exam grade is higher than their grade on this component, their final exam grade will replace it.

The skills assessed in the laboratory work are essential to this course. They cannot be fully assessed through their tests or final exam. If they complete fewer than 5, they will not meet the requirements of the course. See Essential Learning Requirements above for what happens in that case.

If you expect that you may miss a lab session, you do not require documentation, however, you must contact your TA within 48 hours of your absence to arrange drop off of the assignment for marking.

Quizzes

Your quiz mark will be calculated from the best 10 out of 11 quizzes. You do not need to apply for Academic Consideration for a missed quiz, but the mark for that missed quiz will be recorded as zero.

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

Labs and quizzes 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, and students do not need to request Academic Consideration for a missed deadline; their grade for this component will be calculated as described above (5 out of 7 for labs; 10 out

of 11 for Mastering Geology quizzes). However, for labs, make sure you inform the lead TA of your lab period to arrange dropping off your late assignment for marking if late.

If a student misses the lecture midterm exam, its weight will shift automatically to the final lecture exam. They do not need to request Academic Consideration.

Mastering Geology Quizzes

Weekly quizzes done on the Mastering Geology platform (that comes with your e-text), do not require documentation if any are missed. Your best 10 out of 11 quizzes will be counted toward your final course grade.

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.

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.

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 (including lab assignments) 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 (marked in gradescope) may be subject to submission for similarity review by

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.