

Information For All Students in a Writing Studies Course Fall/Winter 2024-25

Prerequisites

The following statement appears on all Writing Studies course outlines:

“Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

Where applicable, it is followed by a list of prerequisite courses. You might also see a statement regarding courses antirequisite to the course in which you are registered.

Term Work

The instructor will provide a full course outline, including an explanation of the nature of the term work to students within the first three weeks of the term. **The course outline will be posted to your course/section’s OWL Brightspace site.** Read the full course outline carefully; it contains or refers to important information about instructor, departmental, and University policies applicable to the course.

Please note: You are assumed (under University regulations) to have read and familiarized yourself with these documents once they are posted on the course/section OWL Brightspace site. That includes policies on matters such as attendance/penalties, late essays, plagiarism, AI use, and so on. You are also assumed to be familiar with relevant university dates and deadlines – for example, the last day in a term on which you can drop (withdraw from) a course without academic penalty.

Assignments

In half courses, a minimum of 2,500 words of written work (excluding drafts, quizzes, tests and the final examination mandated by Senate Regulation in Distance Studies) will be required. **Submitting the same material in two different courses (double submission) requires permission in advance from BOTH instructors. Without such permission, the result will be a zero for the material that is submitted the second time.**

The minimum word-limit regulation noted above does not preclude the administration of surprise assignments and quizzes, as long as the approximate number, frequency, and value of such assignments is specified in the course outline.

Students should keep electronic copies of all assignments. Please note that in some Writing courses, electronic copies of assignments must be submitted to turnitin.com through your section’s OWL page. Your instructor will advise you at the beginning of term as to her/his preferences (electronic, paper, or either/both) for assignment submission for grading purposes. Per the stated AI-related policy on our Writing syllabi, students should also keep all research notes, rough drafts, and outlines used.

If submitting a paper copy of an assignment, do not put it under office doors; place your assignment in the English and Writing Studies Drop Box, located near the English and Writing Studies General Office, Room 2401 University College. **All assignments must have the course name, section and instructor’s name listed on the front of the assignment.**

Final Examinations in First-Year Writing Studies Courses

There will be a final written examination in your first-year course. Final examinations are scheduled by the Office of the Registrar and written at the specified location. In Distance Studies sections, the examination will be written in one of the six specified locations—Barrie, London UWO, Ottawa, Sudbury, Toronto, and Vancouver. Students will

be informed in writing, well in advance, of the format of the final examination.

Final Examinations in Senior (Including Senior Introductory) Writing Studies Courses

Writing Studies courses other than first-year courses do not ordinarily have final exams. There are exceptions, however, so check your course outline carefully.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory, and non-attendance (or insufficient participation in online courses) may result in a significant grade penalty. **Please see your course outline for your instructor's specific policies on attendance, and note again that University policy assumes that you have read and understood the attendance and other policies that apply to a particular course. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these policies.**

Note: a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of 'make-up class' in another course **will** count as non-attendance, and **will** attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at the University of Western Ontario **shall not require** a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict with that student's other scheduled class times. If you are asked or 'required' to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counselor in your Dean's office. If you elect to miss a class in order to write such a test, that is **your** choice; your absence will not be excused.

Office Hours

Each instructor must specify office hours – three hours per week, at least two of which must be 'open.' Distance Studies Instructors of online courses will provide an equivalent notice of availability. Students may consult their instructors at other times by appointment. Students who wish specific information about the nature and policies of a course in which they are or will be enrolled are encouraged to consult with either the instructor or the Writing Studies Undergraduate Program Director, Dr. Jamie Johnston (see contact info below).

SPEC(ial Examinations), INC(omplete Standing), Or AEG(rotat Standing)

All requests **must** be initiated in and with the Office of the Dean of the student's home faculty, using a form provided by that office. Any arrangements will require the eventual approval and signatures of the course instructor and the Director/Writing Studies.

PLEASE NOTE: Individual instructors **do not have** discretion to initiate these procedures or grant these requests; consequently, please do not approach your instructor on these matters prior to initiating your request in your Dean's office, as she or he will simply direct you to proceed as outlined above. Arrangements for Special Examinations must ordinarily be made BEFORE the beginning of the final examination period.

Academic Consideration Policy

Note that the following statements appear *verbatim* on all Writing Studies course outlines. These statements constitute current University/departmental policy on these matters.

"University policy on academic considerations is described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests through the Student Absence Portal, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation, which may include a Student Medical Certificate. Recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without**

supporting documentation in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:...”

[Your instructor will then identify on the syllabus which term work components are excluded from consideration requests without supporting documentation, either because they are deemed central to the learning objectives of the course or because they have flexibility built into them—a flexible submission deadline or a scenario wherein not all components/aspects of an assignment category will be calculated into the final grade.]

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

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

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519-661-3030 (during class hours) or 519-433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Statement on Gender-based Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Other Student Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Requests For Academic Relief And Complaints (See current Western Calendar and https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf for University regulations.)

a. **Complaint:** If students have a complaint concerning a course in which they are enrolled, they **must** discuss the matter first with the instructor of the course. If students are not satisfied, they should bring their complaint to the attention of the Writing Studies office by contacting writing@uwo.ca. They will then be referred to the appropriate person.

b. **Requests for Exemption:** Students who make a **request for exemption** from a University Regulation must address the request in writing to the Office of the Dean of the Faculty in which they are registered.

c. **Requests for a Change in Grade:** These procedures apply to courses in Writing. Students may request academic relief with respect to grades on essays, tests, or final examinations (if applicable). Unless there is a procedural irregularity, relief cannot be adjudicated for other matters such as participation grades. The first (**required**) stage is discussion with the instructor of the course. **Any further formal appeal must be made within three weeks of the date on which the assignment was returned.**

A request for relief is to be made in writing using the prescribed form. To obtain a copy of the form, contact

writing@uwo.ca. Complete the form, save it, and return it as an attachment to writing@uwo.ca. **A request cannot be lodged without grounds**, which may include questions of fairness or appropriateness of general grading practices.

The Director of Writing Studies will contact the instructor in order to ensure that a full discussion of the matter has taken place at the level of the instructor and the student. The student must discuss the material in some detail with the instructor. The absence of a response from the instructor within two weeks, subject to the reasonable availability of the instructor, will be taken as agreement that jurisdiction in the matter has moved to the Writing Studies Office. Once the Writing Studies Office takes jurisdiction in a request for relief, it cannot return to the instructor.

The Director of Writing Studies will consider the grounds given and may make a ruling on the request or arrange to have the submission re-read confidentially by another instructor who taught the course during the current year or in recent years, but who is not the student's instructor. The student must submit the original work but should also submit a clean copy for the second reader. The instructor should provide the original assignment. If the grade assigned by the second reader differs from that given by the student's instructor, the Director of Writing Studies will discuss the grade with both readers. A grade on which any two of these three people (the instructor, the second reader and the Director agree will become the final grade for the assignment.

Deadlines for requests for academic relief against a final grade in a course are as follows: January marks: January 31st; April/May marks: June 30th; Intersession marks: July 31st; Summer Evening marks: August 31st; Summer Day marks: September 15th; Spring/Summer Distance Studies courses: October 15th. A request for a change in grade will have one of three results: the grade may stand, or be raised, or be lowered. If students wish to proceed in their request for academic relief beyond this point, they should apply in writing to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University College, Room 2220.

Scholastic Offences (Including Plagiarism)

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf”

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy as above).

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>) .

All students in 1000 and 2100 level Writing courses will be required to submit copies of all assignments written outside of class hours to turnitin.com. Your section instructor will advise you further on the procedures to be followed.

Plagiarism (the unacknowledged use of another person's work) is one of the most serious academic offences since it involves fraud and misrepresentation. In plagiarizing, one is in effect claiming another person's words or ideas or data as one's own work, and thus misrepresenting material subject to academic evaluation. It is necessary, therefore, that plagiarism carry appropriate penalties. These are within the discretion of the instructor in consultation with the Director of Writing Studies, but they may include a grade of zero on the assignment without the privilege of resubmitting it or failure of the course.

THE SERIOUS OFFENCE OF PLAGIARISM CAN HAVE ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES AT THE FACULTY LEVEL. Instructors must report instances of plagiarism to the Director of Writing Studies, who will report the infraction to the Office of the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Students must acknowledge each printed or electronic source (including study guides such as *Cole's Notes* and any and all Internet materials) by author, title, date and place of publication, and page number if: (a) they quote from it directly; (b) they paraphrase its ideas; (c) they are conscious of any influence its ideas may have had on their own work. Every source (including websites) that students have consulted (whether they refer to it directly or not) must be included in a bibliography (Works Cited or References page, depending on the documentation style in use). Some instructors may also require that students provide copies of material downloaded from the Internet.

It is not always possible to identify the sources of inspiration of one's own ideas with total accuracy. **A reasonable and conscientious effort** is all that is required. However, **it is entirely the student's responsibility to be aware of the nature of plagiarism**. If students have any questions about plagiarism, they should ask their instructor. If students have any doubts about the documentation of their own essays, they should see the instructor before the essays are due.

Students found to have submitted the work of another person as their own work will automatically fail the course. Any students who know their own work has been used improperly have a responsibility to inform the Writing Studies Office of that fact; otherwise, they will be considered collaborators.

Students may be permitted by their instructors to use AI tools for information gathering and preliminary research purposes **only** (if at all, and unless otherwise indicated in assignment instructions). These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. It is essential, however, that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize, develop, and articulate their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, but students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism in any form. Note that for all assignments completed outside of class, the instructor can require you to attend an in-person interview to discuss your work before a mark is finalized. Assignments should always reflect students' own thoughts and constitute independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, supports independent inquiry, and encourages original written contributions.

Contact Information:

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