



HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE – WINTER 2021

## POLS 2295G – Political Theory Through Science Fiction

**Lecture Time:** Friday, 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm ET

**Instructor:** Dianne Lalonde

**Student Hours:** Monday, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET

**Email:** [dlalond3@uwo.ca](mailto:dlalond3@uwo.ca)

**Meeting Times:** Feel free to email me and we will arrange a meeting time based on your schedule

*"Every choice we make allows us to manipulate the future." – Captain Jean-Luc Picard*

Science fiction explores questions fundamental to political and social life like how humans respond to threats, who advancements in technology may benefit and who they may disadvantage, and where our current trajectory is taking us (whether that be economically, environmentally, politically, etc.). Like science fiction, political theory seeks to understand aspects of our current world by exploring abstract ideas around humanity, justice, and governmentality.

Joined together, science fiction and political theory are in a unique position to investigate abstract ideas in a way that is grounded in concrete scenarios and possible futures.

In this course, we will use science fiction films, shows, audio plays, and comics to explore some core concepts in political theory. This course will engage your political, social, and economic imagination to better understand where we are right now and where we could be in the future – whether that is a utopia, a dystopia, or something in the middle.

**No prior knowledge of political theory or science fiction is required to take this course.**



## Course Methodology

This course is offered in a blended format. You can join non-mandatory Zoom lectures with short recorded content sessions (with your video off) and then discussion periods that are not recorded. You can also access the course materials (e.g. guided reading questions, short content videos, lecture slides) and participate through weekly responses in the forums on OWL. You do not need to pick one format – you can mix attending lecture or not so long as you still follow the material and participate online.

What our weeks will look like:

- 📺 **Mondays:** Guiding questions for the week will be posted.
- 📺 **Fridays:** Lectures will be held during our lecture time of 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm ET.
- 📺 **Saturdays:** Lecture videos will be posted on OWL along with slides, notes, and discussion prompts on the forums.



## Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 📺 Explain core concepts in political theory like autonomy and distributive justice
- 📺 Assess future possible worlds presented in works of science fiction, including how we got to that world and if it is desirable
- 📺 Apply abstract theory to works of science fiction through your film analysis and build your own world assignment
- 📺 Demonstrate effective communication skills that result in the productive exchange of information with classmates through participation

The course will enable students to develop their:

- 📺 Written and oral communication skills
- 📺 Analytical and critical thinking skills

## Course Materials

No books are required for this course as all readings will be posted on OWL. **This course will require you have access to Canadian Netflix or another means in order to view some of the science fiction films and shows.** If Netflix removes any of our planned course materials, I will post an alternative course material. Any piece of science fiction not on Netflix is available for free online and a link will be posted on OWL.



# Course Statements

## *Accessibility Statement*

We all learn differently. If there is something in this course or beyond the course that is a barrier to your learning, please let me know so we can make a plan to support you. I encourage all students to utilize the resources below, and other resources on campus and in the community.

## *Course Conduct Statement*

We will engage in respectful and thoughtful dialogue. To do so, comments will not be harassing, demeaning, or discriminatory.

## *Name and Pronoun Statement*

All people have the right to be referred to in accordance with their personal identity. In the beginning of the course, I will email you a survey to ask your name and the pronouns you use. I will refer to all students accordingly and support classmates in doing so as well.

## *Copyright Statement*

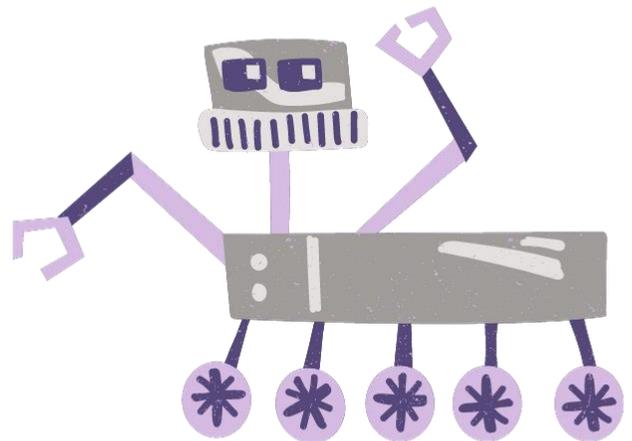
Course materials (e.g. videos, slides) are the intellectual property of the instructor and protected by copyright. I encourage you to take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. However, you may not record, reproduce, or distribute course materials publicly.

## *Content Warning Statement*

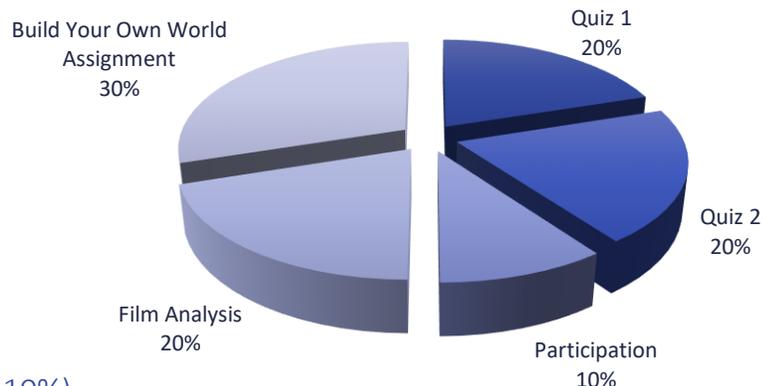
Our course materials and discussion may focus on topics that may be difficult for some students. Science fiction materials in particular often deal with and portray tough topics. A list of the science fiction materials and any content warnings, including scenes you may wish to skip if necessary, will be listed on OWL. If you need to skip a piece of material or discussion, then email to let me know you are skipping it and we can find an alternative piece of material that works for you.

# Campus Resources

- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Wellness and Safety](#)
- [Writing Services](#)
- [Indigenous Student Centre](#)
- [Gender-Based Violence and Survivor Support](#)
- [International and Exchange Student Centre](#)



# Course Work and Grading Procedure



## Participation (10%)

Students can participate through Zoom lecture discussions and through online engagement on OWL forums. Your participation will be graded in accordance with the quality and quantity of your contribution. A rubric for participation grading, in addition to examples of strong contributions to discussions, will be shared on OWL.

- 🏠 **If you can attend the Zoom lecture**, then there will be discussion periods throughout the lecture. These discussion periods will not be recorded. You do not need to have your camera or audio on to participate as you can also use the chat function.
- 🏠 **If you cannot attend the Zoom lecture**, then you can participate through the OWL forums. It is recommended that you post 2 times per week. Different conversation prompts will be offered in the forums, and you can create your own topics as well.

## Film Analysis (20%)

The film analysis will be an opportunity to apply the first three concepts you will learn about (identity, post-humanity, autonomy) to a film. Film options will be provided to you including some that I have chosen (like *The Matrix*, *Dirty Computer*, and *Okja*) and some that we will select as a class. A list of guiding questions, a grading rubric, and more details will be provided on OWL in week 2. This assignment is due on February 12 at 11:59 pm.

- 🏠 **Optional bonus marks:** You can submit a one-page outline of your film analysis up to 5 days before it is due for a 2% bonus.

## Build Your Own World Assignment (30%)

The build your own world assignment will involve playing through a world building game and then writing a reflection paper on how that game play, including your world decisions, reflects course content. It is suggested that you complete the game play as a group, but each individual is required to write their own reflection paper. A survey will be distributed to form groups. If you face significant barriers to the group portion, you can play the game on your own as well. Game instructions, a grading rubric, and more details will be provided on OWL in week 6. This assignment is due on March 29 at 11:59 pm.

- 🏠 **Optional bonus marks:** You can submit your game map up to 5 days before the assignment is due for a 3% bonus.



## Quizzes (40%)

There will be two quizzes on course materials during the term. These quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each quiz will be available for one day. More information and a rubric will be shared on OWL.

- 📺 **Quiz 1** (worth 20%): This quiz will take place on March 5 and consist of weeks 1 through 6.
- 📺 **Quiz 2** (worth 20%): This quiz will take place during the exam period and consist of weeks 8 through 12.

## Late Policy

You will have a four-day time bank that you can use to extend the due date for the film analysis and/or the build your own world assignment. For example, you could submit the film analysis one day late and the build your own world assignment three days late without penalty. If you require more time than that, email me so that we can work out a plan.

## Course Outline

WEEK AND LECTURE	TOPIC AND QUESTION	MATERIALS
<b>Week 1</b> Recorded Zoom lecture posted on Jan 11	<b>Introduction</b> – What is this course all about?	📺 Video: <i>What is Science Fiction, Actually?</i> (8 minutes) 📺 Short Film: <i>The 6<sup>th</sup> World</i> (15 minutes) 📺 Reading: <i>Overview of Political Theory</i> by John S. Dryzek, Bonnie Honig, and Anne Phillips (8 pages)
<b>Week 2</b> Live Zoom lecture on Jan 22	<b>Identity</b> – How do humans define themselves?	📺 Show: <i>Black Mirror</i> – “Nosedive”, S3E1 (62 minutes) and “San Junipero”, S3E4 (61 minutes) 📺 Reading: <i>The Politics of Recognition</i> by Charles Taylor (49 pages)
<b>Week 3</b> Live Zoom lecture on Jan 29	<b>Post-Humanism</b> – Who does the human species include and exclude?	📺 Film: <i>Blade Runner</i> (117 minutes) 📺 Reading: <i>A Cyborg Manifesto</i> by Donna Haraway (42 pages) 📺 Reading: <i>Cyborgs, Cripples and iCrip: Reflections on the Contribution of Haraway to Disability Studies</i> by Donna Reeve (21 pages)
<b>Week 4</b> Live Zoom lecture on Feb 5	<b>Autonomy</b> – What does it mean to be free?	📺 Show: <i>Star Trek: The Next Generation</i> – “Best of Both Worlds: Part 1 and 2”, S2E23 and S3E1 (90 minutes) 📺 Audio Play: <i>Bloodchild</i> by Octavia Butler (56 minutes) 📺 Reading: <i>Personal Autonomy and Society</i> by Marina A. L. Oshana (22 pages) 📺 Reading: <i>Assimilation and Autonomy</i> by Barbara Stock (10 pages)

<p><b>Week 5</b> No Zoom lecture</p>	<p><b>Care</b> – What is one self-care action you can take this week?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📺 Video: <i>Rainday Antiques</i> (10 minutes)</li> <li>📺 Series: <i>Better Worlds</i> (select 1-2 pieces, approximately 7 minutes)</li> </ul>
<p><b>READING WEEK – Feb 13 to 21</b></p>		
<p><b>Week 6</b> Live Zoom lecture on Feb 26</p>	<p><b>Justice and Morality</b> – What should guide our moral decisions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📺 Show: <i>Star Trek: The Next Generation</i> – “I, Borg”, S5E23 (45 minutes)</li> <li>📺 Audio Play: <i>The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas</i> by Ursula K. Le Guin (15 minutes)</li> <li>📖 Reading: <i>The Greatest Happiness Principle / Utilitarianism</i> by Michael Sandel (12 pages)</li> <li>📖 Reading: <i>Kantian Ethics</i> by Onora O’Neill (11 pages)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 7</b> No Zoom lecture</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📺 Quiz 1 will be held on March 5</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 8</b> Live Zoom lecture on March 12</p>	<p><b>Distributive Justice</b> – Who gets what and why?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📺 Show: <i>3%</i> – “Cubes”, S1E1 (49 minutes)</li> <li>📺 Film: <i>Sorry to Bother You</i> (112 minutes)</li> <li>📖 Reading: <i>Equality, Social Justice, and Welfare</i> by Andrew Heywood (32 pages)</li> <li>📖 Reading: <i>Racial Capitalism: The Nonobjective Character of Capitalist Development</i> by Cedric J. Robinson (20 pages)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 9</b> Live Zoom lecture on March 19</p>	<p><b>Intergenerational Justice</b> – Do we have obligations to future generations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📺 Film: <i>Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind</i> (117 minutes)</li> <li>📺 Short Film: <i>PUMZI</i> (21 minutes)</li> <li>📖 Reading: <i>What is Intergenerational Justice?</i> by Janna Thompson (16 pages)</li> <li>📖 Reading: <i>Does Time Colonise Intergenerational Environmental Justice Theory?</i> by Christine Jill Winter (20 pages)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 10</b> Live Zoom lecture on March 26</p>	<p><b>State of Nature</b> – What was it like before government?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📺 Show: <i>The 100</i> – “Pilot” and “Earth Skills”, S1E1 and S1E2 (83 minutes)</li> <li>📖 Reading: <i>Hobbes’s Social Contract as Monster Narrative: The Wolf-Man, Leviathan, and the Politics of Monstrosity</i> by Nicholas Robbins (30 pages)</li> <li>📖 Reading: <i>The Character and Significance of the State of Nature</i> by Peter Vanderschraaf (15 pages)</li> </ul>

<b>Week 11</b> Live Zoom lecture on April 2	<b>Colonialism</b> – How do states seek to extend and maintain authority?	📺 Film: <i>The Hunger Games</i> (142 minutes) 📺 Comic: <i>kitaskînow 2350</i> by Chelsea Vowel, Tara Audibert, and Donovan Yaciuk (31 pages) 📺 Reading: <i>Five Faces of Oppression</i> by Iris Marion Young (20 pages) 📺 Reading: <i>The Politics of Recognition in Colonial Contexts</i> by Glen Sean Coulthard (25 pages)
<b>Week 12</b> Live Zoom lecture on April 9	<b>Choose Your Own Adventure</b>	Everyone has a favourite piece of science fiction so this will be an opportunity to add it to the syllabus! We will decide on the topic and course materials for this week collectively in week 8.



## Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2020 - 2021

### **Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons 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 or for having already taken the antirequisites.

### **Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

While in the physical classroom or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class

by arriving in sufficient time and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: enter and leave quietly. Please see the Code of Student Conduct at:

[www.huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf](http://www.huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf).

### **Technology**

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

### **Adding / Dropping Courses**

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Huron website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

### **Class Cancellations**

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post all relevant information on the OWL class site and on the Huron website at, <https://huronatwestern.ca/about/accessibility>.

### **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Please see the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/attendance.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf).

### **Academic Student Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/contact-directory> .

### **Copyright Regarding Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's answers or papers on the course website he/she should ask for the student's written permission.

### **Statement on Academic Integrity**

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

### **Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact**

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars, it is also an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life.

Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

**Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction, to failure in the course, to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.**

### **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as per the Academic Calendar: [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_189](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_189) .

### **Turnitin.com**

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 (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

### **Computer-Marked Tests/Exams**

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

### **Clickers**

Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

### **Academic Accommodation for Students With Disabilities**

Students who require **special** accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Please review the full policy 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 for Missed Work**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Consideration\\_for\\_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf) are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

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

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

### **Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

Please note the following conditions that are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- Students will be allowed a **maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- Any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a [Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#), signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.

- Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term.
- Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- Students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form**, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Please review the full policy at,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf).

### **Policy on “Academic” Accommodation - Medical / Non-Medical Grounds**

- (a) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go directly to Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising, or email [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca).**

University Senate policy, which can be found at,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf), requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

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

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

- (b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly**

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

**(c) Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising**

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, bereavement) the student should contact an academic advisor directly. All accommodation requests must include a completed [Accommodation Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Dean.

**Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western**

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: [huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca)

Community Safety Office: [safety@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:safety@huron.uwo.ca)

Chaplaincy: [gthorne@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:gthorne@huron.uwo.ca)

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, [www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/).

**Important Dates & Directory**

For a current and up-to-date list of important dates and campus directories, please visit:

- **Huron – Important Dates:** <https://huronuc.ca/important-dates-and-deadlines>
- **Academic Calendar & Sessional Dates:** <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>
- **Huron Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** <https://huronuc.ca/index.php/contact/contact-directory>
- **Western Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** <https://www.uwo.ca/directory.html>