

POL3395G
Rwanda's Recovery: Experiential Learning in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
Winter 2020

Dr. Lindsay Scorgie-Porter

Office: A215

Office Hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30; Wednesdays 1:30-2:30

Email: lscorgi@uwo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Overview:

POL3395G is an experiential learning course to the Central African country of Rwanda. The course consists of two components: (1) Huron-based preparation throughout early winter 2020 in order for students to familiarize themselves with Rwanda's history, politics, and culture, and (2) a 10-day intensive stay in Rwanda during the February Reading Week. In this course, everyone must complete the travel component to receive credit.

Rwanda is well known for its horrific 1994 genocide in which over 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in the space of 100 days. Since then the country has made enormous and impressive strides to recovery, becoming a beacon of relative prosperity and stability in a troubled and tumultuous region.

The road to recovery is more nuanced than first meets the eye. There is often debate amongst academics, the international community, humanitarians, and others, over strategies for post-genocide recovery and peacebuilding. This course will expose students to this debate, exploring various facets of contemporary Rwanda in order to better understand: (1) the methods of recovery that Rwanda has pursued, and (2) political, economic, and socio-cultural dynamics of peacebuilding.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course students will have a thorough understanding of contemporary Rwandan political dynamics. They will be familiar with historical developments that contributed to such dynamics, and particularly be able to identify the circumstances leading up to the genocide, as well as the political, economic, and socio-cultural ramifications of the events of 1994. They will also be able to place Rwandan political developments within a broader view of conflict and post-conflict transformation in the troubled Great Lakes region.

CLASS METHODOLOGY

In order for students to truly appreciate their experience in Rwanda, it is necessary to familiarize themselves with Rwanda's history, politics, and culture prior to arriving in the country. As such, throughout January and February 2020, the class will be assigned various readings with the expectation that the students submit reflective responses on them. Once in Rwanda, there will be

limited time to do lengthy readings, and thus students are strongly encouraged to scholastically prepare as much as possible prior to departure. The class will meet periodically throughout fall 2019, as well as throughout January and early/mid-February 2020.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

All readings are available under the ‘Resources’ folder on OWL. Please note that a more extensive list of further recommended readings (as well as films) is posted on OWL; this will be particularly helpful for essays.

Students are strongly encouraged to follow news from Africa, and particularly Rwanda. Some suggestions of suitable international sources that often have (relatively) significant African coverage include the BBC, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Economist*, and Vice News. In terms of Central African media sources, the most relevant include *The New Times* (Rwandan newspaper), *The New Vision* (Ugandan newspaper), *The Daily Monitor* (Ugandan newspaper), and *The Independent* (Ugandan newsmagazine). An excellent podcast worth subscribing to is BBC’s *Africa Today* (available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/africa>).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Critical Responses	Value 25%	Ongoing evaluation (Jan. & Feb.)
Participation & Reflection Journal	Value 25%	Ongoing evaluation (during trip)
Essay	Value 35%	Due five weeks post-trip
Independent Project	Value 15%	TBD

Critical Responses:

Beginning in early January, students are required to complete readings on various Rwandan subjects – as outlined below. Each week students are expected to write a short critical response paper (3-4 paragraphs). The purpose of this is to demonstrate that you have actually done the readings, and that you have critically reflected on them – i.e. that you have compared and contrasted them, perhaps, or identified some common themes linking them, etc.

Papers must be uploaded by the date listed. For example, for the unit entitled ‘How the Genocide Unfolded Part II: Killers, Victims, Bystanders’, responses are due by January 14. ***Because we are under somewhat of a ‘time crunch’ in terms of getting the readings done by Reading Week, I will not be able to accept late critical responses.*** Please upload papers to OWL, under the ‘Assignments’ tab.

Reflection Journal:

Each student will be required to develop a reflection journal. The journal is an opportunity for students to critically reflect on the knowledge they are acquiring with regards to Rwanda: their reactions to sites visited, cultural experiences, people met, and so on. It is the student’s responsibility to contribute to their journal on a regular basis; the professor will do ‘spot checks’

to ensure that students are doing so. Final submission of the journal will take place upon arrival back in Canada.

Participation:

It is expected that students will actively engage in discussion with the various organizations and individuals that we meet during our stay in Rwanda. Students will also be expected to actively engage in evening debriefs that will take place daily during the trip. The professor will take into account the *quality* of one's contributions – not simply the quantity – when assessing participation.

Essay:

Students will be required to write a 4,000-word essay on a topic of their choice (within the overall subject of Rwandan conflict and peacebuilding). Students will be encouraged to think about ways to acquire primary information/observations on their topic while in Rwanda. The essay will be due five weeks following the return to Canada.

Independent Project:

Throughout the course there will be a strong emphasis upon sharing students' experiences with the wider Huron collegiate community. As such, part of each student's overall course grade will be based on their development of a creative means through which to share their experience. Students might, for example, choose to create a blog for the course, or a short film on the trip, or perhaps develop an evening event post-Rwanda to present their experiences to faculty and students at Huron. There are a multitude of possibilities, and students are encouraged to be creative and enterprising.

An 'independent project proposal' will be due one week after return to Canada, and each student will meet individually with the professor sometime in that time-frame following submission of the proposal to discuss more in-depth the feasibility and details of the project. The independent project proposal is worth 10% of the overall project grade. As each project is individualized, there is no general due date for this assignment; rather, a completion date for the project will be decided upon in consultation with the professor.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

I am happy to meet with students during my office hours, as well as other times by appointment. If getting in touch by email, please note that I will try to respond within two business days.

Students should check the course website and their UWO email on a regular basis, as items such as the following may be posted: additional readings, further instructions for assignments, notifications of any changes in itinerary, relevant news updates on Rwanda, etc.

SCHEDULE JANUARY 2020 – FEBRUARY 2019

Jan. 7

Introduction to Rwandan Genocide

- Philip Gourevitch. 18 December 1995. "Letter from Rwanda: After the

Genocide.” *The New Yorker*. *This is an excerpt (essentially) from Gourevitch’s well-known book, *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families*. Although recognized as being overly pro-RPF, this is an excellent book, and I strongly advise you to read it in its entirety (it’s not a long read).

Jan. 7

How the Genocide Unfolded Part I: Killers, Victims, Bystanders

- Helen Hintjens. 2001. “When Identity Becomes a Knife: Reflecting on the Genocide in Rwanda.” *Ethnicities* 1(1), pp. 25-55.
- Lee Ann Fujii. 2004. “Transforming the Moral Landscape: The Diffusion of a Genocidal Norm in Rwanda.” *Journal of Genocide Research* 6(1), pp. 99-114.
- Lee Ann Fujii. 2008. “The Power of Local Ties: Popular Participation in the Rwandan Genocide.” *Security Studies* 17(3), pp. 568-597.
- Jean Hatzfeld. 2008. *A Time for Machetes: The Rwandan Genocide – The Killers Speak* (London: Serpent’s Tail). *This reading is optional, but highly recommended. This book is available via UWO libraries – I would suggest you read any chapter or two.

Jan. 14

How the Genocide Unfolded Part II: International Rhetoric, Reactions, Responses

- Samantha Power. 2001. “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen.” *Atlantic Monthly* 288(2), pp. 84-109.
- Gregory Stanton. 2002. “Could the Rwandan Genocide Have Been Prevented?” *Genocide Watch*.
<http://www.genocidewatch.org/couldrwandangenocide.html>
- Mel McNulty. 1997. “France’s Role in Rwanda and External Military Intervention: A Double Discrediting.” *International Peacekeeping* 4(3), pp. 24-44.
- Tom Ndahiro. 2005. “Genocide and the Role of the Church in Rwanda.” *Pambuzuka News*. <https://www.pambuzuka.org/human-security/genocide-and-role-church-rwanda>
- Alan Kuperman. 2000. “How the Media Missed Rwandan Genocide.” *IPI Report* 6(1), pp. 11-13. Available at:
<https://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/COMM.7.8.03.HTM>

Jan. 21

Transitional Justice

- Felix Mukwiza Ndahinda and Alphonse Muleefu. 2012. “Revisiting the Legal and Socio-Political Foundations and (Western) Criticisms of Gacaca Courts.” *African Perspectives on Tradition and Justice*, pp. 149-173.
- Peter Uvin and Charles Mironko. 2003. “Western and Local Approaches to Justice in Rwanda.” *Global Governance* 9(2), pp. 219-231.

- Don Webster. “The Uneasy Relationship Between the ICTR and Gacaca,” in Scott Straus and Lars Waldorf (eds.) *Remaking Rwanda: State Building and Human Rights After Mass Violence*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, pp. 184-193.
- Max Rettig. “The Sovu Trials: The Impact of Genocide Justice on One Community,” in Scott Straus and Lars Waldorf (eds.) *Remaking Rwanda: State Building and Human Rights After Mass Violence*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, pp. 194-209.

Jan. 28

Reconciliation

- Ervin Staub. 2008. “Promoting Reconciliation After Genocide and Mass Killing in Rwanda – and Other Post-Conflict Settings: Understanding the Roots of Violence, Healing, Shared History, and General Principles,” in Arie Nadler et al (eds.) *The Social Psychology of Intergroup Reconciliation*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 395-421. <http://people.umass.edu/estaub/18-Nadler-Chap17.Staub.pdf>
- Jennie E. Burnet. 2012. *Genocide Lives in Us: Women, Memory, and Silence in Rwanda*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, chapter 2.
- Phil Clark. 2005. “When the Killers Go Home.” *Dissent* 52(3), pp. 14-21.
- Allan Thompson. 11 April 2009. “The father and daughter we let down.” *The Toronto Star*. https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2009/04/11/the_father_and_daughter_we_let_down.html

Feb. 4

Leadership

- Christian Caryl. 2 April 2015. “Africa’s Singapore Dream: Why Rwanda’s President Styles Himself as Heir to Lee Kuan Yew.” *Foreign Policy*. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/02/africas-singapore-dream-rwanda-kagame-lee-kuan-yew/>
- Richard Grant. 22 July 2010. “Paul Kagame: Rwanda’s redeemer or ruthless dictator?” *The Telegraph*. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/rwanda/7900680/Paul-Kagame-Rwandas-redeemer-or-ruthless-dictator.html>
- Jeffrey Gettleman. 4 September 2013. “The global elite’s favorite strongman.” *The New York Times*. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/08/magazine/paul-kagame-rwanda.html?_r=0
- *The Economist*. 28 March 2015. “Rwanda’s Political Future: King Paul – a Successful Man with No Successor.” <http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21647365-successful-man-no-successor-king-paul>

Feb. 11

Economic development & Other Areas of State Development

- Jennie E. Burnet. 2008. "Gender Balance and the Meanings of Women in Governance in Post-Genocide Rwanda." *African Affairs* 107(428), pp. 361-386.
- An Ansoms. 2011. "Rwanda's Post-Genocide Economic Reconstruction: The Mismatch Between Elite Ambitions and Rural Realities," in Scott Straus and Lars Waldorf (eds.) *Remaking Rwanda: State Building and Human Rights After Mass Violence*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, pp. 240-251.
- Jeff Chu. 18 March 2009. "Rwanda Rising: A New Model of Economic Development." *Fast Company*.
<http://www.fastcompany.com/1208900/rwanda-rising-new-model-economic-development>

Feb. 18

Rwanda and Regional/International Politics Post-Genocide

- Eugenia Zorbas. "Aid Dependence and Policy Independence: Explaining the Rwandan Paradox," in Scott Straus and Lars Waldorf (eds.) *Remaking Rwanda: State Building and Human Rights After Mass Violence*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, pp. 103-117.
- Rachel Hayman. "Funding Fraud? Donors and Democracy in Rwanda," in Scott Straus and Lars Waldorf (eds.) *Remaking Rwanda: State Building and Human Rights After Mass Violence*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, pp. 118-131.
- Gerald Caplan. "Memory and Denial: The Rwandan Genocide Fifteen Years On." *Pambazuka News*. <http://www.pambazuka.org/human-security/memory-and-denial-rwandan-genocide-fifteen-years>
- Benjamin Barber. 1997. "Feeding Refugees or War." *Foreign Affairs*.

Classes after the Rwanda trip TBD.



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2019/2020

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.

In the 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 to be seated 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: sit in an aisle seat and 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.

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 is 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.

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.

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

Please see the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the OWL class site, is <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> and on the Huron website at www.huronuc.on.ca/about/accessibility.

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. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: www.huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/academic-advising.

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at: www.huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/art-social-science and at www.huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/management-and-organizational-studies.

Adding / Dropping Courses

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Huron website, huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/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.

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and at Western

Students who are stressed, emotionally distressed or in mental health crisis please refer to: huronuc.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/health-wellness for a complete list of options about how to obtain help, or email Huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca to access your wellness staff directly. Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/.

Huron is committed to providing a safe, welcoming campus for students, staff and faculty by providing confidential assistance to those who have personal safety concerns. Providing a safe and welcoming campus for students, staff and faculty is one of Huron's top priorities.

The Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) provides medical response to 9-1-1 calls on Main, Brescia and Huron campuses which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the academic year. SERT is dispatched through the campus community Police Service (CCPS) to any medical emergency on campus at (519) 661-3300. For more information about SERT please visit: sert.uwo.ca/about-sert/about-sert/.

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 and 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 .

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 a 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 Western University and 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.

Policy on "Special" Accommodation

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://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html> .

Policy on "Academic" Accommodation - Medical / Non-Medical Grounds

Students who require academic 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://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html> .

(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 .**

University Senate policy, which can be found at,

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 .

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 your Instructor directly.**

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

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.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

The full Policy on Academic Consideration for student Absences – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs is available at:

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

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.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a.** students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b.** 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. Please see section 4 below for more details.
- c.** The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- d.** The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- e.** The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- f.** 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;
- g.** 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.

h. 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.

Important Dates and Directory at Huron and Western

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>
- **Western – 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>