

EARTH SCIENCES 1089G (EARTH, ART and CULTURE)

COURSE OUTLINE (SYLLABUS)

1. Course Information

Course: Earth Sciences 1089G: Earth, Art and Culture

Academic Term: Fall/Winter 2025-26

Lectures: In-Person: 3 hrs./wk.

List of Prerequisites and Antirequisites

Prerequisites: None **Antirequisites:** None

Restrictions: Cannot be taken by students registered in yr. 3 or 4 of an Earth Sciences module.

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this course or written special permission from the Department of Earth Sciences to enroll in it, you may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on your academic record.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

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Cam Tsujita (Course Coordinator and Instructor)	TBA			Mon., Wed. 1:30-3:30 pm or by appt.
Teaching Assistants (TAs)	Email			Office Hours
TBA				Contact your TA(s) directly via email.

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses and put the **course number Earth Sciences 1089G** 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

Office Hours: 1:30-3:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please email me (Cam) to give me a heads-up that you plan on dropping by (to ensure I'm actually there when you come by).

lmcfar4@uwo.ca

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

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

Course Objectives: The fundamental objectives of this course are to provide such students a basic understanding of:

- a) Earth materials and processes (from a qualitative scientific perspective)
- b) The importance of Earth materials and processes on art, technology, mythology and other aspects of culture (in the context of the Earth Sciences).
- c) Human perception of Earth from cultural and scientific perspectives

Course-Level Learning Outcomes / Expectations: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1. Identify, classify and describe the characteristics of important minerals, rocks, and other Earth materials using appropriate scientific terminology.
- 2. Integrate theoretical and observational information to describe connections between geologic processes and products.
- 3. Describe how geologic materials, processes and concepts are significant to aspects of human culture, including visual art (e.g. paint pigments, ceramics), mythology, literature, the development of technology, and food and drink.

Note on the nature of scientific material to be covered in this course: This course is a Science course. As such, it concentrates on scientific subject matter. Students enrolled in this course can expect to learn, apply, and be tested on, scientific concepts, technical scientific terms and problem-solving skills inherent to the scientific disciplines relevant to this course (primarily the disciplines of Earth Sciences and Biology). **However, material to be tested on exams will be qualitative and will not involve mathematical calculations or require memorization of numerical dates.**

Delivery Format:

Lectures: In-person\

Weekly Quizzes: Asynchronous Online (via OWL Brightspace “Quizzes”; assigned each Wednesday at 12:00 pm (noon), due the following Wednesday at 11:55pm; see course schedule below). The main purpose of these quizzes is to ensure that you are keeping up with the lecture material and to give you some indication of how well you are understanding the material.

Short Practical Assignments: Between weeks 2 and 5, three very short assignments will be assigned to allow you to explore some of the topics of the course (e.g., minerals, rocks, fossils and mineral resources) at a slightly deeper level than in the lectures. Some of these will involve looking at building stone in various buildings on campus as well as some of the mineral/rock/fossil displays within the B&GS building. Due dates are indicated in the course schedule below. Assignment outlines will be accessed through “Assignments” in OWL. Each of the short assignments will open on a Friday at 12:00 pm noon and will be due at 4:00 pm on the Friday of the following week (except for Short Assignment 4, in which you will have an extra week). Assignment outlines will be posted on OWL. You will print

these out yourself, fill them in by hand (not digitally) and submit them as hard copies in the designated drop box.

Term Paper: As this course is designated as an “essay” course, a **2500 word (maximum) term paper** addressing some aspect of the relationships between geology and human culture will be assigned in later part in the term. A complete set of instructions for preparing your essay will be provided later in the term on OWL in “Assignments.” You will submit your completely term paper **to Turnitin (via “Assignments” in OWL)**. See schedule below for due date.

Forum Participation: To encourage some degree of interaction in this class, students are expected to participate in the OWL forum for each week. Weekly forums will begin in week 2. The forum for each week will open at 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday and close the following Wednesday at 11:55 pm (as with the quizzes, you have a full week to participate). For each week of participation, students will be awarded 0.5 marks. To obtain the 0.5 for the forum of a particular week, a student must ***answer the start-up question offered that week or another student’s question AND ask at least one legitimate question of their own specifically about the subject matter of that 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 physically attend the lectures. From year to year, students who regularly attend the lectures consistently perform better in the course than those who don’t. **Also note that many of the lectures cover topics that are not covered in the e-text and/or only superficially covered in the readings.** The exams will primarily draw from material covered in the lectures, but the readings will provide additional background that will aid in the understanding of the concepts.

Course Schedule for Earth Sciences 1089G (2025-26)

Note that the 2 hr. lecture session on Monday (10:30 am -12:30 pm) will include two separate 1 hr. lectures (on as scheduled below. The Wednesday lecture session (10:30 -11:30 pm) will consist of one 1 hr. lecture.

Week (still to do)	Day	Date of Lecture	Lecture Topics (and Other Items of Significance)	OWL Quizzes and Forums (always due on Wed. of following week)	Assignment due dates.
Wk. 1 (Jan.4-10)	M	Jan. 5	Lecture 1: Introduction to Earth, Art and Culture	No Quiz this week. No forum this week	<i>No assignments due</i>
	M	Jan. 5	Lecture 2: Our Place in Space: Ancient and modern views on “creation”		
	W	Jan. 7	Lecture 3: The Earth System: Our views of planet Earth		
Wk. 2 (Jan. 11-17)	M	Jan. 12	Lecture 4: Why Minerals Are Beautiful: Minerals and their properties	Quiz 1 (Wk. 1 material) opens Wed. Wk. 2 Forum opens Wed.	<i>Short Assign. 1 opens Fri., Jan. 16.</i>
	M	Jan. 12	Lecture 5: Why Minerals Are Beautiful II (Minerals and their properties, cont’d)		
	W	Jan. 14	Lecture 6: Minerals Gemstones and Jewellery: Minerals as prized objects		
Wk. 3	M	Jan. 19	Lecture 7: Igneous rocks	Quiz 1 due Wed.	Short Assign. 1
	M	Jan. 19	Lecture 8: Sedimentary rocks		

(Jan. 18-24)	W	Jan. 21	Lecture 9: Metamorphic rocks	Quiz 2 (Wk. 2 material) opens Wed. Wk. 3 Forum opens Wed.	due Fri., Jan. 23. <i>Short Assign. 2 opens Fri., Jan 23.</i>
Wk. 4 (Jan. 25-31)	M	Jan. 26	Lecture 10: The Devil's Doing: Fossils, superstitions and mythology	Quiz 2 due Wed.	Short Assignment 2 due Fri., Jan. 30 <i>Short Assign. 3 opens Fri., Jan. 30</i>
	M	Jan. 26	Lecture 11: Fossils, Art and Culture: Fossilization and aesthetics of fossil remains	Quiz 3 (Wk. 3 material) opens Wed.	
	W	Jan. 28.	Lecture 12: Fossils, Art and Culture II: Beauty in Natural Form	Wk. 4 Forum opens Wed.	
Wk. 5 (Feb. 1-7)	M	Feb. 2	Lecture 13: The Sands of Time: Our perception of time and the antiquity of Earth	Quiz 3 due Wed.	Short Assignment 3 due Fri., Feb. 6
	M	Feb. 2	Lecture 14: Earth's Changing Face: The basics of plate tectonics and rock deformation	Quiz 4 (Wk. 4 material) opens Wed.	
	W	Feb. 4	Lecture 15: Mother Nature's Chisel: Processes of weathering and erosion	Wk. 5 Forum opens Wed.	
Wk. 6 (Feb. 8-14)	M	Feb. 9	Lecture 16: Clay: From weathering product to art medium	Quiz 4 due Wed.	Midterm exam, 10:30-11:20 am, Wed., Feb. 11.
	M	Feb. 9	Lecture 17: Stolen Land: Famous erosional landforms	Quiz 5 (Wk. 5 material) opens Wed.	
	W	Feb. 11	Midterm exam: material up to including "Earth's Changing Face" (regular lecture time, location TBA)	Wk. 6 Forum opens Wed.	
Wk. 7 (Feb. 15--21)		Feb 15-21	READING WEEK – NO CLASSES (YAY!)	No quiz this week No forums	No assignments this week.
Wk. 8 (Feb. 22-28)	M	Feb. 23	Lecture 18: Rivers: The geological and cultural significance of rivers	Quiz 5 due Wed.	<i>No assignments due</i>
	M	Feb. 23	Lecture 19: Coasts and Reefs: Shallow marine processes	Quiz 6 (Wk. 7 material) opens Wed.	
	W	Feb. 25	Lecture 20: Metal Madness: The geology of metallic mineral deposits	Wk. 8 Forum opens Wed.	
Wk. 9 (Mar.1-7)	M	Mar. 2	Lecture 21: Metal Madness II: The geology of metallic mineral deposits, cont'd	Quiz 6 due Wed.	<i>No assignments due</i>
	M	Mar. 2	Lecture 22: Heavy Metal Thunder: Uses of metals in art	Quiz 7 (Wk. 8 material) opens Wed.	
	W	Mar. 4	Lecture 23: Coal and Petroleum: Fuel, fashion, and fads	Wk. 9 Forum opens Wed.	
Wk. 10 (Mar. 8-14)	M	Mar. 9	Lecture 24: Minerals and Paint: The use of minerals as pigments	Quiz 7 due Wed.	<i>No assignments due</i>
	M	Mar. 9	Lecture 25: The Geology of Ancient Monuments: When human hands meet stone	Quiz 8 (Wk. 9 material) opens Wed.	
	W	Mar. 11	Lecture 26: Modern Monuments and Stone Sculpture: Stone and modern aesthetics	Wk. 10 Forum opens Wed.	

Wk. 11 (Mar. 15-21)	M	Mar. 16	Lecture 27: Doing the Apocalypso: Apocalyptic imagery in art and literature	Quiz 8 due Quiz 9 (Wk. 10 material) opens Wed. Wk. 11 Forum opens Wed.	Note: Final term paper due at 4:00 pm, Fri., Mar. 20.
	M	Mar. 16	Lecture 28: The End-Cretaceous Mass Extinction: When dinosaurs meet disaster		
	W	Mar. 18	Lecture 29: Modern Doomsday Scenarios: Global catastrophe at the movies		
Wk. 12 (Mar. 22-28)	M	Mar. 23	Lecture 30: The Dinosaur: Dragon or doofus?	Quiz 9 due Wed. Quiz 10 (Wk. 11 material) opens Wed. Wk. 12 Forum opens Wed.	<i>No assignments due</i>
	M	Mar. 23	Lecture 31: The natural beauty of mother of pearl		
	W	Mar. 25	Lecture 32: Pearls: Irritants, iridescence and industry		
Wk. 13 (Mar. 29-Apr.4)	M	Mar. 30	Lecture 33: Disasters and Plate Tectonics: Earthquakes and Tsunami	Quiz 10 due Wed. Bonus Quiz 11 (Wk. 12 material) opens Wed. Wk. 13 Forum (Bonus) opens Wed.	<i>No assignments due</i>
	M	Mar. 30	Lecture 34: Odd Earth Objects: Unusual sights and sounds of Earth		
	W	Apr. 1	Lecture 35: You Are What You Eat: Geology and food		

Key Sessional Dates

Classes begin: Monday, January 5, 2026

Spring Reading Week: February 15 – 21, 2026

March 30, 2026: Last day to add or drop a second-term half course or a second-term full course

Tuesday, January 13, 2025. Courses dropped by this date will not appear on a transcript. Courses dropped after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty). Course withdrawals after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'F.'

Classes end: April 9, 2026

Exam period: April 12 - 30, 2026

Student Absence Portal:

If you miss an assessment and require Academic Consideration, use the Student Absence Portal:

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

Depending on the nature of the absence, you will be prompted to provide a medical certificate or other form of documentation.

Contingency plan

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously or asynchronously, the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

4. Course Materials

If you have not taken an Earth Sciences course before, it is recommended that you purchase an e-text for this course (read below). As this course covers a diverse range of subject matter, and a single

textbook does not cover all of the topics covered in this course, we will use a custom volume published by Pearson Education for basic geologic topics for at least the first part of the course. This is titled “ESC 1089G Earth, Art & Culture: Readings for Selected Topics.” The price of the e-text is \$31.43. **To purchase the e-text online with a major credit card or PayPal, please use this invite link:** <https://console.pearsoned.com/enrollment/mcpy8i>.

If you have already taken an Earth Sciences course, you may be able to use that text again!

If you have already taken an Earth Sciences course (e.g. Earth Sciences 1022A: Earth Rocks!) within last year or sooner and used the e-text Earth: An Introduction to Physical Geology (Fourth Updated Canadian Edition), you can use that e-text instead (you should still have access to it).

Although the e-text is recommended as a learning resource, you may be ok without the e-text provided that you take good notes.

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

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) 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 site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Technical Requirements

In the event of a university-declared emergency requiring pivoting to an online format, it will be important to have a stable internet connection and a computer with working microphone and/or webcam.

5. Methods of Evaluation

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

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

11 Weekly quizzes on OWL (best 10 out of 11 quiz marks; see course schedule above for dates): 10%

3 Short Assignments (see course schedule above for due dates): 10 % total

Participation in OWL Forums: 5%

*Midterm Exam: 20%

1 Final Term Paper: 20 %

Final exam: 35%

*Midterm Exam tentatively scheduled Wed., Feb. 11, 2026; subject to change

Final Exam to be scheduled by Office of the Registrar

Please Note: We cannot and will not accommodate any requests to hand in an extra assignment for the purpose of boosting final grades after the fact (even at the end of the term).

Format for Midterm and Final Exams: Both exams will consist of a combination of fill-in-the-blank, definitions and longer written answer questions. The Midterm Exam will have a 50 minute time limit and the Final (Lecture) Exam will have a 2 hour time limit.

General 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.

All Academic Consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, 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**:

- Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (Final Exam) (Defined by university policy)
- Short Practical Assignments (Defined by policy)
- Midterm/Presentation/Group Project* (Designated by the instructor as the one assessment that **always** requires documentation when requesting Academic Consideration)

When a student mistakenly submits their one allowed Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** for the assessments listed above or those in the **Coursework with Assessment Flexibility** section below, the request cannot be recalled and reapplied. This privilege is forfeited.

Evaluation Scheme for Missed Assessments

Policy on Late Submission of Weekly Quizzes, Short Online Assignments, and Term Paper:

Quizzes, short online assignments and term papers completed and submitted after the deadlines specified in the course schedule above will be deducted 10% for each day late unless recommended otherwise by academic advising..

If an extension is granted due to Academic Consideration approved by academic advising for the above assessments, the student must notify the instructor of the missed assessment within 48 hours of the original time of the assessment. For Short Practical Assignments and the Term Paper, last date when submissions will no longer be accepted, even with Academic Consideration granted will be 7 days after the original due date of the assessment.

Policy on Missed Tests/Exams:

If approval is granted for Academic Consideration for the Midterm or Final Exam, a student will be permitted to write a make-up test/exam at an alternate date.

Participation Assessments

A small portion (5%) of the final grade will be based on weekly student participation in Weekly OWL Forums. The OWL forums will be monitored to track discussions and assess participation.

Essential Learning Requirements (Requirements for Passing the Course)

Even when Academic Considerations are granted for missed coursework, the following are deemed essential to earn a passing grade.

1. A passing grade for the course is 50% for all grade components combined.
2. You must write both **the Midterm Exam and Final Exam.**
3. The Term Paper must be submitted.

Coursework with Assessment Flexibility

Quizzes. This course has **11** quizzes, and the **10** quizzes with the highest marks are counted towards your final grade. This will allow one quiz to be missed with no penalty.

Weekly Forum Posts: 11 opportunities will be provided to participate in the Weekly Forum Posts, and a maximum of 10 posts will be counted toward your final grade. This will allow one forum post to be missed with no penalty.

6. Additional Statements

6.1 Religious Accommodation

When a recognized religious holiday or observance conflicts with an examination, test, or other scheduled academic obligation, students must request accommodation via the University's Student Absence Portal (SAP). This request should identify the conflict and specify which course component(s) (e.g. test, midterm, exam) are affected.

Students are encouraged to submit the SAP request as early as possible, but no later than two weeks before any examination, or one week before any mid-term test or quiz, to allow sufficient time for adjustment.

The SAP request serves as official notification to both the course instructor and the Academic Advising Office, in accordance with University policy:

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

The Faculty of Science considers religious accommodations as scheduling conflicts. Instructors should provide either a make-up exam or an earlier sitting of the same exam to accommodate the student.

For more information on recognized religious holidays, please visit the Diversity Calendar posted on the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion website - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca>

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, and wireless earbuds or headphones.

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

Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is your 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 your responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

Comments on the Use of Generative AI Tools Specific to This Course

Although the use of generative AI is allowed to some extent (see below), reliance on AI for report-writing is not recommended for several reasons. These include the following:

1. AI is known to generate false/fictitious references. If the references in your report cannot be confirmed as real, this will immediately alert us to inappropriate use.
2. The use of AI for writing a report or essay constitutes a form of plagiarism.
3. AI is not reliable for the accuracy of scientific facts. The accuracy of information generated by AI is a function of the quality of information it has access to. There exists a lot of false and/or information on the internet (especially for topics relating to gemstones).
4. The point of the term paper is to challenge you to learn about the topic and to synthesize and explain concepts in your own words. If you use AI in writing a paper, you are completely losing the point of writing the paper in the first place.
5. The use of AI is easily detected by plagiarism detecting software (e.g. Turnitin), which will alert us to inappropriate use and could lead to very unpleasant consequences to your course grade (and possibly your academic record). To avoid mark deductions for text similarity, do not directly copy and paste text generated by AI. Write your own text in your own words (do not cut and paste anything from any source, even short phrases), and you need not worry about plagiarism or being suspected of using AI inappropriately.

Despite the comments above, we are well aware that some of you will be tempted to use ChatGPT or other AI platform to help you write your term paper. While we will allow the use of Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, etc.) to help in your research and/or writing if you get stuck, we will not tolerate its use for generating a significant part (more than 10% of the text and/or content) of your actual report.

If you do choose to use generative AI as an aid in your writing, you must include a description of the following items:

1. A statement indicating that you have used AI in the composition of your paper and that you did not generate text with AI and directly copy the generated text and paste it into your paper.
2. Software and version used.
3. A complete list of prompts you used to generate the text
4. How the AI was used (e.g., generating ideas, organizing your thoughts, fact finding on certain parts of the topic, improving spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, grammar, sentence structure, etc.).

Plagiarism Detection (Turnitin)

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>).

As an “essay course,” a requirement for this course is a 2000-2500 word written report. The topic and instructions for the term paper will be provided later in the term. You will be submitting **two versions** of your term paper – **a digital copy** submitted online via the “Assignments” tool in OWL, and **a printed copy** submitted to the assignment dropbox. When you submit your digital copy, you will be able to see your a Turnitin score. Scores of up to 25% are not uncommon as many papers written on the topic may have been submitted online worldwide (as well as published and unpublished reports). You **MUST** check your score and ensure it is below 25% to avoid deductions from your report grade. Deductions for a Turnitin similarity index score 25% or greater will be as follows:

Turnitin score (similarity index)	% mark deduction from paper
25-29%	10%
30-34%	20%
35-39%	30%
40-44%	40%
45-49%	50%
50% or greater	100% (so a mark of zero) and you will be contacted by the TA marking your paper.

It is highly recommended that you submit your digital copy well before the due date so that if your Turnitin score is 25% or over, you will still have time to modify and resubmit it (hopefully with a Turnitin score below 25% so you can avoid deductions). You may resubmit up to the deadline time indicated in the assignment outline. Papers with a score above 50% will be scrutinized in detail for originality in the written content. If evidence of plagiarism is found, you will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Science. Plagiarism is a serious offense (see note on Scholastic offences in Section 8 below) and may result not only in a grade of zero for the assignment, but also a grade of zero for the course, or worse, expulsion from Western University.

Computer-Marked Assessments

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

6.5 Support Services

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/counselling/>.

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.

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 you have experienced

GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will 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.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. If you have any questions regarding accommodations, you may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on 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.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>. This course is supported by the Science Student Donation Fund. If you are a student registered in the Faculty of Science or the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, you pay the 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. You 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 ssc@uwo.ca.