

Course Outlines

Subject:	Course Outlines
Sections:	Course Outlines (Syllabi) for Undergraduate Courses; Course Outlines for Graduate Courses;
Approving Authority:	Senate
Responsible Committee:	Senate Committee on Academic Policy
Related Procedures:	*
Officer(s) Responsible for Procedure:	*
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COURSE OUTLINES (SYLLABI) FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

No later than the first day of class in the term a course is given, Faculties, Departments, Schools or Programs (hereafter called “Academic Units”) must post on a secure website a course outline for each course offered that includes the course name and number, and the location and days and hours that the course is scheduled (including lecture, laboratory and tutorial hours).

Each course outline must include the following information or direct students to a secure course website where these details are available:

1. Course Information

Prerequisite checking - the student’s responsibility

If applicable, a list of the prerequisites for the course and the following notation regarding the Senate regulation with respect to the student’s responsibility for ensuring that course prerequisites have been

completed successfully or special permission from the Dean obtained:

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

2. **Instructor Information**

Full name, title and appropriate contact information of the instructor and, if the course is taught by more than one instructor, the name of the person responsible for the course [course coordinator].

3. **Course Syllabus**

A description of the objectives and content of the course, which shall include a statement of what is expected of the student by way of preparation, tests, exercises, essays, laboratory reports, etc. (hereafter called "assignments"), and any specific requirements for attendance and participation.

4. **Course Materials**

A description and approximate cost of the materials that are required (or recommended) for the course, including text books, supplemental information, notes, manuals, laboratory or safety materials, and any specific electronic devices.

5. **Methods of Evaluation**

A statement of the methods by which student performance will be evaluated and the weight of each, including an exact timetable and schedule of assignments, is required. When exact dates cannot be supplied, a tentative schedule must be issued, with an exact schedule to follow as soon as possible. This regulation does not preclude the administration of surprise assignments and quizzes, as long as the total number, approximate frequency, and value of such assignments are specified in the course outline.

Any course-specific conditions that are required to pass the course must be outlined. Conditions might include (i) minimum attendance at lectures, tutorials or laboratories, (ii) minimum overall grade on laboratory, tutorial or essay components of the methods of evaluation, or (iii) minimum required grades on a final exam, to name a few.

A clear indication of how absences from midterms, tutorials, laboratory experiments, or late essays or assignments, will be dealt with must be provided. The course outline must direct the student to the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Course instructors who wish to change the evaluation procedure shown in the

course outline must receive prior approval to do so from the dean (or designate) of the faculty concerned.

6. **Additional Statements**

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

A clear statement of what electronic devices will or will not be allowed during tests and examinations.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Instructors must indicate whether the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is acceptable, permitted in specific situations, or unacceptable in their course. Instructors may refer to the Centre for Teaching and Learning for resources on the use of generative Artificial Intelligence.

Statement on Academic Offences

The statement: "Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the [Scholastic Offences policy](#), specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Additionally,

- A) If written work will be assigned in the course and plagiarism-checking software might be used, the following statement to this effect must be included in the course outline:

"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 Western University and Turnitin.com."

- B) If computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be given, and software might be used to check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating, the following statement must be added to course outlines:

"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."

Support Services

The [website for the Office of the Registrar](#), and the same for affiliated university colleges when appropriate, and any appropriate Student Support Services (including the [services provided by the USC](#)) and Academic Support and Engagement, should be provided for easy access.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

All course outlines must contain the following statement:

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

All course outlines should contain the following statement: “Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

Retention of Electronic Version of Course Outlines (Syllabi)

At the same time that course outlines/syllabi are posted on the appropriate website, each Department must forward an electronic version of items 1-5 of each course outline (syllabus) to the Office of the Dean of the Faculty or College. By the fourth week after the start of term, the Dean’s Office will forward all of the collected outlines to the Office of the Registrar, where they will be maintained in electronic form in the faculty/staff extranet for a minimum of ten years after the completion of the course. (Final retention periods and disposition will be determined by the relevant records retention and disposition schedule approved by the President’s Advisory Committee on University Records and Archives).

COURSE OUTLINES FOR GRADUATE COURSES

As soon as possible and in any case no later than two weeks prior to the course's start, Faculties, Departments, Schools or Programs (hereafter called "Academic Units") must post on a secure website a course outline for each course offered. At the start of each course this outline also must be available electronically and/or in hard copy form.

In order to allow students to make informed decisions on their course selection and the scheduling of their studies, each course outline must include the following information or direct students to a secure course website where these details are available:

1. Course Information

This includes the course name and number, and the location and days and hours that the course is scheduled (including all required components of the class: lectures, seminars, colloquia, labs, etc.).

2. Enrollment Restrictions

All course outlines must include one of the following two statements regarding enrollment restrictions:

"Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in [Insert name of program(s)]."

OR

"Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in [Insert name of program(s)], as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program." For the policy on undergraduate students taking graduate courses, please see the policy on "Undergraduate Course Credit".

3. Instructor Information

Full name, title and appropriate contact information of the instructor and, if the course is taught by more than one instructor, the name of the person responsible for the course [course coordinator].

4. Course Description and Graduate Course Level Learning Outcomes/Objectives

A description of the objectives and content of the course, which shall include a statement of what is expected of the student by way of preparation, tests, exercises, essays, laboratory reports, etc. (hereafter called "assignments"), and any specific requirements for attendance and participation.

Provide a list of course learning outcomes/objectives. Course learning outcomes/objectives should align with the graduate program's learning outcomes. Contact your graduate chair/administrator, or the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS), for a copy of the program learning outcomes. Ideally, students should be able to see how course learning outcomes/objectives are addressed through course requirements, activities and assessments.

5. Course Timeline and Format

Include an anticipated timeline of the content areas, or topics and/or other learning activities, covered over the course duration, as well as the format (face-to-face, online, hybrid) used to deliver the content. Instructors should make every effort to follow the stated timeline. Normally, instructors cannot change the format of instruction during the course.

6. Course Materials

A description and approximate cost of the materials that are required (or recommended) for the course, including textbooks, supplemental information, notes, manuals, laboratory or safety materials, and any specific electronic devices.

7. Methods of Evaluation

A statement of the methods by which student performance will be evaluated and the weight of each, including an exact timetable and schedule of assignments. When exact dates cannot be supplied, a tentative schedule must be issued with an exact schedule to follow as soon as possible. This regulation does not preclude the administration of surprise assignments and quizzes, as long as the total number, approximate frequency, and value of such assignments are specified in the course outline.

Any course-specific conditions that are required to pass the course must be outlined. For example, conditions might include (i) minimum attendance at lectures or laboratories, (ii) minimum overall grade on laboratory or essay components of the methods of evaluation, or (iii) minimum required grades on a final exam.

Course instructors who wish to change the evaluation procedure shown in the course outline must receive prior approval to do so from the graduate chair of the program concerned.

8. Statement on Academic Offences

The statement: “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the [Scholastic Offences policy](#), specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Additionally,

A) If written work will be assigned in the course and plagiarism-checking software might be used, the following statement to this effect must be included in the course outline:

“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 Western University and Turnitin.com.”

B) If computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be given, and software might be used to check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating, the following statement must be added to course outlines:

“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.”

9. Health/Wellness Services

All course outlines must contain the following statement:

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at [Mental Health Support at Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

10. Accessible Education (AE)

All course outlines must contain the following statement:

“Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education (AE), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations may include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.”

11. Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

All course outlines must contain the following statement:

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

12. Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Instructors must indicate whether the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is acceptable, permitted in specific situations, or unacceptable in their course. Instructors may refer to the Centre for Teaching and Learning for resources on the use of generative Artificial Intelligence. Refer to the Provisional Guidance for the use of Generative AI in Graduate Studies for more information. A link to this document is available on the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website.

Retention of Electronic Version of Course Outlines (Syllabi)

At the same time that course outlines/syllabi are posted on the appropriate website, each program must forward an electronic version of items 1, 3, 4, and 7 of each course outline to the SGPS. By the fourth week after the start of term, SGPS will forward all of the collected outlines to the Office of the Registrar, where they will be maintained in electronic form in the faculty/staff extranet for a minimum of ten years after the completion of the course. (Final retention periods and disposition will be determined by the relevant records retention and disposition schedule approved by the President's Advisory Committee.)

Last Reviewed: November 14, 2025