



Religious Studies 2200 F/G (570)
Approaches to the Study of Religion
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: Tourage, Mahdi

Email: mtourage@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

Religions, like well-cut jewels, are multifaceted and can be viewed from a number of unique angles. This course examines religion through a variety of scholarly lenses and academic disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, phenomenology, theology and feminism.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category B

Subject Code: RELSTUD

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol 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.

King's University College
Approaches to the Study of Religion
Fall 2025
RS 2200 F (570)
Tuesdays 11:30-2:30

Instructor:

Dr. Mahdi Tourage

mtourage@uwo.ca

Office hours for fall term 2025:

In Person: Mondays 5:30-6:30, Tuesdays 10:30-11:30

Online (Zoom): Mondays 10-11

Office location will be announced in class

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the historical and current methodologies and varieties of scholarly approaches to the study of religion such as: anthropology, sociology, philosophy, phenomenology, psychology, feminism, critical race theory, post-colonial and postmodern theories. By reading and discussing major figures from these theoretical approaches to the study of religion we aim to develop analytical skills in understanding religious phenomena in its broadest sense. We will be covering the ways in which the study of religion impacts and is impacted by colonialism, cultural and geographical differences, postmodernity, cross-disciplinary studies, and the intersections of power, politics and pop-culture.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course the students should expect the following learning outcome:

1. A foundational knowledge and understanding of leading scholars and influential approaches to the study of religion
2. A substantial knowledge of the key issues and debates in the study of religion (such as racial and gender-critical approaches, postcoloniality, postmodernism)
3. To evaluate critically the various interpretations and definitions of “religion”
4. Having written detailed analysis of “religious” phenomena from at least three theoretical approaches to the study of religion

Mode of Instruction:

- In person

Course Textbooks/Material

- No textbook to purchase for this course

Method of Evaluation:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 10% | Class attendance plus active and informed participation |
| 10% | Weekly reading responses with your question(s) submitted the night before each class, plus one “class takeaway” at the end of each class session. See instructions below.* |
| 5% | One Presentation (10 minutes) |
| 20% | First Take-Home writing Assignment (about 1000-1500 words) Due Oct. 7, 2025 |
| 20% | Second Take-Home writing Assignment (about 1000-1500 words) Due Oct. 28, 2025 |
| 35% | Term Paper (3000 words due last class Dec. 9, 2025) |

Academic Considerations:

This course begins on the day announced by the University and continues until the last class, honouring all important dates derived from University approved guidelines and academic policies

(<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-dates-and-events/>).

- Each unexcused missed class/assignment will result in a deduction of 2% of your participation mark.
- Students are responsible for seeking consideration as noted in the Western University Calendar: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/courseoutlines.pdf
- Students submitting work for which Academic Consideration has been granted must submit their missed work (on OWL) within 2 days after the end of the period for which the student received Academic Consideration.
- Late penalties for work that is overdue is 5% per day late, papers that are more than a week late receive 0%.
- I know so many things happen in our lives that could prevent us from attending the class. And I am sympathetic to students' predicaments, but sending me an email about your car problem or sudden illness or accident and death in the family will not excuse an absence (because absences are verified and authorized by your academic counsellor not me.)
- Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.
- All assignments must be your own writings.

*You must post a weekly reading response the night before our class. Your response will be a summary of the main points of the reading. What is it that the author trying to say? Also include a question or two you will have about the reading. After class, you will post one "class takeaway." **UPLOAD THESE AS PDF ONLY PLEASE< MAKES IT EASIER FOR ME TO OPEN**, Thank.

- There is no specific format for your reading responses and class takeaways, they could be a couple of paragraphs or page or two, in full sentence or point form, these are your reactions to the material, points you find interesting or confusing or disagree with.
- Post your responses and takeaways on OWL Brightspace > COMMUNICATIONS>GROUPS (I think you have to write it up as Word Document and upload it there), where only you and your instructor can see it. So you will have one entry before and one after each class. Please post reading responses *the night before each class, and class responses within a day of our class together. This will help me to see where you are at and what to discuss more or less in class.
- The purpose of weekly entries is first for me to take a look at and see if there is anything the student want to say, add, or is not clear about, second to show that you have done the readings. So you can write in point form, short sentences, a long essay kind of entry, doodling, cartoons, memes Have any questions about the reading or class discussions or previous class? post it there.
- Your entries are worth 10% of your overall grade, So they must be on time (the night before our class, the night after our class). They are not individually marked, but receive an overall mark for all the entries (and marks deducted for late or no entries).

Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:

- Link to Western Scholastic Discipline policy: https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
 - Course policy on use of generative AI, including translation/grammar aids to follow
- This course uses Turnitin

A note from the Instructor:

I am honored that you have trusted me with your education, a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I am committed to your intellectual development, and enthusiastic about your various responses to the study of the subject matter of this course. Of course, I expect as much commitment from you to this course as well. Please call on me early and often for help with the complex nature of the texts we study, issues we discuss that you find compelling or confusing, or the challenges of academic work and its relevance to practical concerns. I welcome questions and conversations about your writing and thinking, and your plans for the future. I am available after class, for lunch, dinner, coffee, and of course, during scheduled office hours or by appointment. In this course we will try to create an organic community of learning, an open and inviting classroom in which we can exercise democracy and education as a practice of freedom. This would be a classroom that reflects an ideal vision of the world we would like to live in. We will learn from each other, teach others, love and respect each other, honor every one's unique soul and journey in life, appreciate what each one of us brings to this class and what we give and take from each other. We will listen to each other carefully, ask for clarification, critique each other's ideas intelligently and respectfully, and sharpen our thought processes and arguments. We hope to create transformative moments in ourselves, in the learning community that we create every time we meet, and hopefully in the larger world around us.

Accessibility, Inclusion, and Disability Accommodations:

All are welcome in my class. Come as you are! Really. If the design of this course creates obstacles to your full participation, please notify me to discuss adjustments. This is true for those who have a formally documented disability with the university and those who do not (this includes folks with invisible impairments and/or those who pass/compensate).

Talk to me early on in the course please. Requests for accommodation should be made as early as possible, but there is no expiration date on inclusivity. It is never too late to discuss issues regarding access – this is true for ALL of your classes, not just mine. I also encourage you to register with University's disability services if you are able.

Schedule of Readings –

(No Textbooks to buy for this course)

Schedule of Readings

Sept. 9 **Introduction to the Course**

-Jensen, *What is Religion?* (2014), Chapter 1, "Introduction: Some Ideas of Religion." < We will read this in class together, but you must post a reading response about this reading and following videos after class.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5KHDR8jdbA>

- Homer creates his own religion:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnUjOCaTM6M>

16 **Phenomenology**

Mercia Eliade, in Daniel Pals, *Eight Theories of Religion*, Chapter 6 (find it in *Eight Theories of Religion* on OWL>Resources)

Think about these questions: How do we give meaning to our lives? Or how do you escape from meaningless of life? How does religion give meaning to our lives? (what is the meaning of life anyways?)

- The difference between sacred and profane: Moroccan Film: *The Unknown Saint*

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10077998/?ref =vp_close

Synopsis

In this brilliantly comedic modern fable, debut feature director Alaa Eddine Aljem takes audiences on a deadpan desert caper with a subtle touch of absurdity. A thief has just stolen a considerably large bag of cash. With the cops hot on his heels, he acts quickly and buries his ill-gotten gains atop of a hill in the desert, fashioning a makeshift grave with rocks to help him identify the location later. Upon being released from prison, he returns to the spot only to discover that the local inhabitants have mistaken his hastily constructed hiding place as a miracle grave for a mysterious, albeit completely fictional saint.

An impressive shrine now covers the thief's loot, and to his infinite surprise, there is even a whole new town that has sprung up nearby to support the legions of pilgrims who travel from far and wide to visit the mausoleum. Along with his dim-witted abettor, the thief settles into the village and begins plotting a way to break into the shrine. But with the loot now hidden in a holy place, retrieving it suddenly becomes much more complicated in this farcical and quirky satire on superstitions.

- Searching for meaning and “terror of history:” Fight Club (novel 1996, movie 1999) 15 minutes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yngoem4v4u4&list=PLD3A89718EA4599F4&index=44>

- Cyclical repetition of Time: Ground Hug Day
https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0107048/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

Watch this: less than 5 minutes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSGrnCCmXes&list=PLi64rmQXnCercD4Ma4tq3so9QBKqTujgH&rc=1>

- Escape to nature: Jeep Commercial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3qH4TKLP0c> ✓

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdIV2tDR1Fw> < Grand Cherokee

23 Anthropology

Peter Connolly's *Approaches to the Study of Religion*, David Gellner, Ch. 1

- Do a little digging on the 1983 film *Never Cry Wolf*, then “watch” the ending:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKCaVfSwnLY>

- The Gods Must Be Crazy:

<https://vimeo.com/116436527>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9VCHSv0poU>

Sept. 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - non-instructional day

Oct. 7 Sociology (First Writing Assignments Due)

Strenski: Ch. 12, “Seeing God with the Social Eye: Durkheim's Religious Sociology” 129-140

Do some digging on the film *Cast Away* (Tom Hanks, 2000) and watch this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaQa4ttIyNo>

14 Marxism

Karl Marx, “Religion as Alienation,” in Pals *Seven Theories of Religion*, Ch. 4

Is Sexuality Compatible with Human Rights? Jean-Claude Milner (27/06/2018).

- Jacques Allain Milner talk, starts at 10 minute mark goes on to 42 minute mark:

https://archive.org/details/bb-is-sexuality-compatible-with-human-rights-jean-claude-milner-in-conversation-with/2018_06_27_Milner_Zizek_talk.mp3

Also can be found here: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/slavoj-%C5%BEi%C5%BEek-collected-recordings/id1104995518?mt=2&i=1000415390759>

- Also to see how Marxism and its terminology/concepts can be understood through pop-culture take a look at videos like this one that argue for Marxist elements in Shrek: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWbaUnbo-c&t=205s>
<https://jacobin.com/2019/01/karl-marx-engels-capitalism-political-economy> < 8 Marxist claims that may surprise you

21 **Feminism**

Strenski, “Sex/Gender and Women: Feminists Theorizing Religion,” 189-213

Witches and Class Struggle :https://jacobinmag.com/2018/10/witch-hunt-class-struggle-women-autonomy?fbclid=IwAR06_ghs2jY3TQQ_vIYi8V63Z-PB1Oz_DBDkaxH0o7IReDIuSCsE5il4z1Q

Alicia Byrnes, Janice Loreck, and Nonie May, “She’s everything”: feminism and the *Barbie* movie.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14680777.2024.2381254#:~:text=Whereas%20Mattel's%20Barbie%20doll%20has,centred%20in%20the%20film's%20plot.>

28 **Psychoanalysis (Second Writing Assignments Due)**

Sigmund Freud, “Religion and Personality,” in Pals *Seven Theories of Religion*, Ch. 2

True Detective: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RfUj09pWfM

King’s Speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYAnINmQTYo>

Nov. 4 Reading Week – No Class

11 **Post-Modernism**

- Strenski, “From Modernism to Post-Modernism: Mostly Michel Foucault,” 157-169

FYI:

- “Postmodernism” in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/postmodernism/>

Film: Pulp Fiction.

Listen to this podcast about Foucault, pay attention to how Marxist concepts are redeployed by Foucault: “On Michel Foucault’s *Discipline and Punish*, in New Book on Critical Theory podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/kw/podcast/on-michel-foucaults-discipline-and-punish/id593872749?i=1000587095874>

18 **Critical Race Theory**

1. Strenski, “Theorizing Religion with Race in Mind: Prophecy or Curiosity”

FYI:

2. Listen to Vivek Chibber’s critique Critical Race Theory here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jygI2XgnsY4>
3. Familiarize yourself with Malcolm X and Martin Luther King (highlight differences)
4. Watch this 30 minutes interview with Angela Davis: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3q_qV5mHg0
5. Familiarize yourself with Ta-Nehisi Coates and Cornel West (West is in this week’s reading too), we will read and watch the following together:

<https://www.vox.com/identities/2017/12/20/16795746/ta-nehisi-coates-cornel-west-twitter>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woXHGP1-WOQ>

25 **Post-Colonial Theory**
 Strenski, "Post-Colonial Theories of Religion" (216-240)

Dec. 2 **Anarchism**
 Reading TBA

9 **Last Class, Term Papers Due**

Explanation of Grades

Percentage Grade Grade Definitions

90 - 100	A+ Outstanding a high degree of	The report shows sparkling originality and exhibits critical analysis of the topic. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the writing and background research is exemplary.
80 - 89	A Excellent	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, insightful analysis of the facts and capacity to synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations. The report shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical analysis of the topic; it gets to the heart of the matter with comments and/or questions. It is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing makes the report immediately understandable. Mastery of complex material and ideas is demonstrated. The report is of appropriate length, while preserving the priorities and emphasis of the material, so that the result is meaningful, not simplistic.
(There are substantial differences between A and B grade. You may reproduce the facts, show some analytical grasp, and still get a B or B+. Please read the descriptions for an A and a B carefully)		
75 - 79	B+ Very Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature. The report shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The topic is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. The analysis is organized around focal points and the argument is easily followed. The report demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material.
70-74	B Good	The report shows an attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Claims

are supported by reasonable evidence. The topic is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. The analysis is organized around focal points. The report is generally well written and well argued

60- 69 C Competent
experience;

Student who is profiting from their university

understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material. The report demonstrates adequate comprehension of the topic. The report is on topic and is a reasonable summary of material covered in the course, but goes no further. Facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the report.

50 - 59 D+ Marginal
some

Some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and

evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed. The report shows less than adequate comprehension of the topic and of the material covered by the course. The report is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the report.

0 . 49 F Inadequate
subject

Little evidence of even superficial understanding of

matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills, with limited or irrelevant use of literature. The report demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. The material is disorganized and unintelligible. The report clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment.

Also consult: http://www.kings.uwo.ca/philosophy_religious_studies/grading_policies/

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course Outline Policies

1. Accommodation, Illness Reporting, and Academic Considerations

1a. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessibility, Counseling, and Student Development at King's (at Western, Accessible Education) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

1b. Academic Consideration for Student Absence / Missed Assessments

Note that Self-Reported Absences have been discontinued by Western and affiliates as of August 31, 2022. For assessments worth less than 10% of overall course grade, students should contact their instructors for consideration.

For work totalling 10% or more of the overall course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Dean's Office (or Academic Counselling Office of a student's Faculty of Registration) as soon as possible.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Dean's Office (or Academic Counselling Office of a student's Faculty of Registration).

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

1c. Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Dean's Office (or Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration) as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

1d. Religious Accommodation

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

2. Support Services

- Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College
- <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>
- Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>
- Mental Health@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/
- Academic Support Services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>
- University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

- <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/gender-based-violence-disclosure-process/>
- Students can connect with King's Campus and Community Social Worker (Emily Carrothers): <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/campus-and-community-social-worker/>
- See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom

King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices – such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones – can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of

electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to Academic Integrity.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>

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.

5. Copyright re: 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 they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

7. Policy on Attendance

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.

8. Remembrance Day Policy

Two minutes of silence observed on November 11 at 11 am throughout the university and that, where this is not possible, two minutes of silence be observed between 11 am and 12 noon. Students are permitted to be absent from class to attend Remembrance Day Services, provided the instructor is

informed in advance of the intended absence.

9. Contingency Plan for an In-Person Class Moving Online

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

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.

5. Copyright of 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. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

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.