



# Political Science 3320E – SJPS 3320E 270/230 Fall/Winter 2021-2022 Women in Civic Leadership

Coordinator, instructor and academic support Office: FB101

Professor: Dr. Jacquetta (Jacquie) Newman

Email: jnewman@uwo.ca

Instructor Office: Virtual/in person office

Professor: Anne Marie DeCicco-Best appointments available

Email: adecicc@uwo.ca

Instructor

Professor: Shawna Lewkowitz Office: TBD

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#### **Office Hours:**

Dr. Newman (King's): Tuesday 3:00-4:30 pm and Thursday 2:30-4:00 pm

Prof. Anne Marie DeCicco-Best (Brescia): By appointment virtually or other agreed up time and date in person

Prof. Shawna Lewkowitz (King's): TBD

If you would like to meet with us during office hours at a location on campus other than our offices, please let us know and we will make arrangements.

# **Class Times and Location(s):**

Every second Friday 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Please refer to the course schedule on page 9 for specific dates. For the first term we will be meeting at Brescia BR-201 and the second at King's KC-LH 220.

## **Course Description:**

Women continue to be underrepresented in civic leadership. This course offers a unique experience for students who identify as women and are interested in becoming engaged in civic leadership and community building. Students are paired with a female civic leader to learn about the opportunities and barriers facing women.

**Antirequisites:** Social Justice and Peace Studies 3398F, 3399G in 2016-2017; Social Justice and Peace Studies 3320E.

**Prerequisites:** 1.0, or the equivalent, from: Social Justice and Peace Studies 2301A/B, 2302A/B, 2304F/G, Political Science 2230E, 2236E, 2255F/G, DOL 2233A/B; and permission of the Program Co-ordinator/Chair.

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.

## STATEMENT REGARDING COVID 19

As we move into our first "post-pandemic" term there are likely to be challenges. My actions and decisions will be guided by the following principles.

- 1. Health and well-being are our first priority: yours, your families', and ours.
- 2. Our classroom needs to be a safe place both physically and intellectually.
- 3. Fairness means taking students' circumstances into account.

We all need to be mindful of keeping one another healthy. If you haven't yet been vaccinated for COVID, I encourage you to do so. It will keep us all safe.

If you or someone in your household, is feeling ill, **please do not come to class**. Alternative measures to cover the lectures and ways to demonstrate participation/engagement will be found. We promise to do the same.

We promise to wear masks. King's policy is that all students, faculty and staff are expected to wear masks in the classroom. Students who are unable to wear a mask for medical or religious reasons must seek formal accommodation through Accessibility, Counselling, and Student Development at <a href="mailto:acsd@uwo.ca">acsd@uwo.ca</a>. Students unwilling to mask as stipulated by College Policy will be referred to the Dean of Students and such action may be considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

If something going on in the classroom is making you uncomfortable, please tell me. I will take your concerns seriously and try to address them.

(based on language from Lisa Young University of Calgary and Laura Melnyk Gribble Associate Dean King's University College)

# Women in Civic Leadership Course | 2021-2022

# A Partnership of King's and Brescia University Colleges

Coordinator, instructor, and academic consultant

Professor: Dr. Jacquetta (Jacquie) Newman inewman@uwo.ca

Instructor

Professor: Anne Marie DeCicco-Best

Email: adecicc@uwo.ca

Instructor

Professor: Shawna Lewkowitz Email: <a href="mailto:slewkowi@uwo.ca">slewkowi@uwo.ca</a> As professors, we are here for you in two different ways. As a group, we will have time at the end of each class for informal conversations and discussions. Here, you may have questions about your assignments, projects or other topics not covered specifically during class.

You may also have personal questions for the professors where you can book time individually with any or all of them outside of class time. You can book zoom appointments or in person meetings directly by email based on the availability of each person(s).

# **Course Description**

This course offers a unique experience for students who identify as women and interested in becoming engaged in civic leadership and community-building. Students will meet, network, and work with female civic leaders. Students will learn how these leaders and influencers see the city from their unique position as active women leaders in the City of London and gain insight into the opportunities and barriers facing women in politics.

The impacts, effects, and responses to COVID-19 were not gender-neutral and many women were at the forefront in dealing with COVID-19 at the local as well as national level. This year the Women in Civic Leadership class through partnership with women civic leaders and engagement with community organizations will examine and assess London's experience moving out of the pandemic and looking at the recovery experience of COVID-19. By telling the stories of how women community leaders in London responded moving forward, the class will show how gender is intrinsic to crises and crisis responses and how gender-balanced (GBA+) and intersectional approaches can help guide future responses and policy.

**Antirequisites:** Social Justice and Peace Studies 3398F, 3399G in 2016-2017; Social Justice and Peace Studies 3320E.

**Prerequisite:** 1.0, or the equivalent, from: Social Justice and Peace Studies 2301A/B, 2302A/B, 303A/B, 2304F/G; Political Science 2230E, 2236E, 2255F/G; DOL 2233A/B; and permission of the Program Coordinator/Chair.

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they may have taken. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission to enroll in it, you may be removed from the 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.

**Texts:** Leslie Kern. 2019. Feminist City A Field Guide. Toronto: Between the Lines

## **Course Objectives (with competencies)**

- Experience first-hand the influence of gender and leadership at the local level (*inquiry and analysis, self-awareness and development*).
- Understand how gender, race, ethnic, ability, sexual orientation and class differences result in different experiences and practices of the political. (critical thinking, inquiry and analysis, problem solving, self-awareness and development, valuing)
- Develop skills in applying intersectional and feminist lenses to the examination of social, political, and economic activities. (*critical thinking, inquiry and analysis, problem solving, self-awareness and development, valuing*)
- Identify the process and structures of local government and how they impact on everyday lives through an insider view of municipal politics (*problem solving*, *inquiry and analysis*).
- Explore the impact of community organizing and activism on local systems
- Develop and improve research and field-work skills through practice (*communication*, *critical thinking*, *inquiry and analysis*).
- Develop presentation skills including alternative modes of knowledge mobilization (data visualization, online and social media platforms, and print reports and briefings. (*communication and problem solving*).
- Investigate applied education, where students make the links between academics and community problem-solving (*inquiry and analysis, self-awareness and development, problem solving*).

# **Experiential Learning**

This course is an experiential learning course combining academic and theoretical knowledge with community-based experiences. Much more than a placement, the course includes a pedagogical framework of concrete experiences, critical analysis, reflection and synthesis.

# **Course Requirements**

- Students will be assigned in groups to work on the ChangeMak(h)er conference to be held in the spring 2022.
- Students will also be paired with a community leader and will have a minimum five interactions with them including an interview assignment and essay reflection focused on post COVID leadership.
- Students are required to commit to an average of three hours per week of research and work for the duration of the academic year in both the classroom and the community (*self-awareness and development, communication, problem solving*).

## This includes:

- o Interacting with the community-partners, attending meetings and other events related to the work of and suggested by the community-partners. This includes the work required for the course project. (communication, problem solving, self-awareness and development).
- o Attending the classroom sessions on Friday afternoons throughout the course. Schedule and readings are listed below.

- Completion of two projects: an Interview and poster presentation with an analysis of London's women leaders post COVID-19, and the Changemak[h]er Conference on April 2, 2022. (*communication*, *critical thinking*, *self-awareness and development*, *problem-solving*).
- Completion of an interview assignment including undertaking the process of requesting ethics approval.
- Presentation of the final projects to a public audience.

# **Evaluation**

Assignment	Evaluation	Description
Perusal Reading Commentaries Asynchronous (embedded in OWL) (valuing, self-awareness and development)	20% = 4 x 5%  Ongoing -  Marks available: Oct. 22 Dec 10 Feb. 25 March 25	<ul> <li>Students help each other learn by collectively annotating readings in threads, responding to each other's comments, and interacting.</li> <li>Bring the interactivity of a small seminar to a large lecture course, without sacrificing efficiency.</li> <li>Perusall automatically manages entire out-of-classroom experience and motivates participation via social connections and automatic engagement scores.</li> <li>Instead of the blank stares students often give to "Any questions?", start class using Perusall's "student confusion report" — a one-page summary of concepts students had trouble with or most engaged them, along with some of the best annotations.</li> <li>Perusall is accessed by clicking the left hand tab on the class OWL site.</li> </ul>
Participation in classroom sessions  Includes class time, time with mentors, community partner interview and ChangeMak(h)er conference.  (communication, critical thinking, inquiry and analysis)	20% = 2 x 10%  On-going  Marks will be available:  Dec 10, 2021  March 25, 2022	

Interview with Community Partner:  Interview project and poster presentation  15% interview, written essay and transcript of interview  15% poster presentation  (communication, critical thinking, self-awareness and development, problem-solving)  (communication, inquiry and analysis)	Jan 21, 2022  Draft electronic poster copy due March 18, 2022  Final Presentation poster April 2, 2022	The student will be assigned a community partner within the first few weeks of class and introduced to that partner via email by one of the Profs. The student will then engage with them a minimum of five times, including the interview project and reflection paper and translated into a professional poster presentation, The student would be graded based on their execution of the interview, paper and interactions.  Using questions and focusing on themes developed in class, the interview will comprise a significant part of the final class project.
Final Project: ChangeMak[h]er Conference	30% Due:	ChangeMak[h]er Conference - April 2, 2022.
Updates/planning: -one page outline for conference session plan with key dates/time lines -one-page progress report  -one-page final progress report	5% Oct 29, 2021 5% Jan 28, 2022 5% March 4, 2022	
Final conference (logistics, content, group work)	15%	

# Late assignments

Late assignments and papers will have 2% per day late penalty. In the event of a medical emergency, students are requested to contact the Academic Dean's Office or Academic Advisor immediately to determine a course of action. This typically requires medical documentation or other relevant proof as to why an absence was unavoidable.

Please refer to this policy:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\_policies/appeals/accommodation\_illness.pdf

# **Perusall Reading Commentaries – (Individual participation)**

To encourage deeper engagement with the assigned readings, this course will pilot a new collaborative learning and reading tool called Perusall. This platform was developed by four professors at Harvard University to transform course readings from a solitary to a collective experience.

The website, www.perusall.com, is free to use and allows students to read and comment on the material in a social media style environment. With the exception of textbook chapters and videos, all other readings will be made available through Perusall. Access to Perusall is through OWL. The tab is on the left hand side of the course OWL site. Detailed instructions will be provided in class and through OWL to help students sign up on the website, join our course, and begin engaging with the readings.

For weeks in which we hold a seminar, students will be expected to make a minimum of two substantive contributions per reading per week. A bi-weekly deadline of Thursday by noon before the Friday session will be set for reading completion and commentary.

# **Participation** – (**Individual and Group**)

Students are required to attend all Friday sessions through zoom or possibly in classrooms sessions practicing appropriate social distancing. Students will come prepared to discuss and work on developing the two projects for the year and having read and thought about the readings assigned for the week to ensure robust and engaged discussion.

Please be advised that **three or more absences without an appropriate excuse will result in a 0 in participation.** If this becomes unavoidable for medical or such reasons students should approach the Dean's Office to make sure that proper accommodation is requested and given.

Participation will be judged on the basis of attendance, oral participation, the observed level of analytical and communicative skill during discussion and displayed preparation for the week's topic.

## Positively Evaluated:

Responding to others' remarks or questions in a serious and thoughtful manner; drawing together ideas to create new ones; showing respect and interest for other arguments and points of view; engaging others in pertinent and informed dialogue; curiosity in the origin of other points of view; wit and insight.

## Negatively Evaluated:

The domination of class discussion by means of volume, tone or sarcasm; 100% speaking or 100% listening with little attempt to balance both; refusal to acknowledge other points of view; not listening, or appearing to listen; intemperate interruptions; uninformed or glib answers; lack of weekly preparation.

## **Final Projects – (Class and Group)**

As these projects do not fit within the normal framework of traditional classes, the evaluation has to keep in mind the diversity, hence the difficulty in applying a specific rubric. However, as communicated in the first month of the year, these projects fit within a broader approach to knowledge building and sharing.

1. Interview of community partner with gender analysis paper of London and area beyond COVID and a poster presentation:

Through partnership with women civic leaders and engagement with community organizations in London, students will examine and assess London's experience moving beyond COVID-19. By telling

the stories of how women community leaders in London are responding to the next steps in post recovery, the class will show how gender is intrinsic to crises and crisis responses and how gender-balanced (GBA+) and intersectional approaches can help guide future responses and policy.

**Interview assignment**: Using questions and focusing on themes developed in class, this semi-structured interview with female London and area civic leader will comprise a significant part of the data collection for the final class project.

Expected outcomes final presentation of class findings and collected stories in synchronous and asynchronous forms, including profile stories for poster presentations and You Tube video-casts.

2. ChangeMak[h]er Conference: This year the theme will be Women's Leadership – moving to recovery post pandemic and will be held April 2, 2022.

The ChangeMak(h)er conference was created with young women in mind, to build knowledge about what a career in politics can look like, and to build confidence so that young women can be change makers. Women continue to be underrepresented in all levels of elected office and while predominantly employees and volunteers in non-profits and community organization these numbers do not translate into senior positions, women of colour, indigenous women, and members of the LGBTQ+ community are especially scarce. The goal is to support the women who hold these positions and inspire the next generation of female-identifying leaders to shoot for the top.

Expected outcomes are the Annual ChangeMak(h)er Conference and development of a formal and continuous presence (online or other) for the ChangeMak(h)er project

Assessment of the final project shall be done by the course instructors and the coordinator.

# **Engagement and Contact with Your Instructors:**

As professors, we are here for you, our students, in two different ways. As a group, we will have time at the end of each class for informal conversations and discussions. Here, you may have questions about your assignments, projects or other topics not covered specifically during class.

You may also have personal questions for the professors where you can book time individually with any or all of them outside of class time. You can book these appointments directly by email, booked at the availability of each person(s) and can be accommodated virtually or in person.

# **Course Schedule**

(As this is an experiential learning course, speakers and readings may change as and/if different opportunities present themselves. Readings will be made available on-line)

Dates and Locations	Session Description	Readings and Course Content
Friday, September 10, 2021	Session 1: Welcome! Overview and introduction	

200 700		G 1' W 1 5 1 1 2020 - 1
2:00 – 5:00 pm	Get to know session and discussion of	Canadian Women's Federation. 2020. Together, We
	issues:	Must Reset Normal: Gender Equality and Justice is the
		Key to Pandemic Recovery.
Class lead: All		
	1. Introduction and review of	Guardian. Women bear the brunt of COVID
	syllabus	
<b>Location:</b>	2. Discussion on group norms	Guardian. Women showing leadership during COVID.
Brescia BR-201	3. Professor introductions about	
	knowledge, experience,	
	positionality	
	4. Student introductions	
Friday, September	Session 2: Feminism and	Readings:
24, 2021	Intersectionality	
<b>24, 2021</b>	Intersectionanty	Kern: Feminist City: City of Fear
2:00 – 5:00 pm	Discussion of feminism and	Patricia Hill Collins and Sirma Bilge. 2020. What is
2.00 2.00 pm	intersectionality	Intersectionality? In Intersectionality 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition.
Class Lead:	intersectionality	Cambridge, UK: Polity, pp. 1-36
Jacquie Jacquie		3711
o we quite		
Location:		Video: Kimberle Crenshaw discusses intersectionality.
Brescia BR-201		Audre Lorde on oppression(s)
	Thanksgiving is Monday, October 11,	
	<mark>2021</mark>	
Friday, October 8,	Session 3: Women and the City, Social	Readings:
<b>2021</b>	Reproduction and Women's Lives	
2:00 – 5:00 pm		Leslie Kern, Feminist City: A Field Guide, City of Moms
Class Lead:		Nancy Kleniewski and Alexander R. Thomas. 2019.
Shawna		"Women in Cities," Cities, Change, and Conflict: A
		Political Economy of Urban Life. New York: Routledge,
T		pp. 218-236
Location:		Wide Good December 1 COVID
Brescia BR-201		Video: Social Reproduction Theory and COVID <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg5ASSAjMCc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg5ASSAjMCc</a>
		intps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ag5A55AjMCc
		Danaman da da
		Recommended:
		Rebecca Wallace & Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant. News Coverage of Childcare During COVID-19: Where are
		Women and Gender? Politics and Gender. (Forthcoming) –
		part of the Cambridge Press Coronavirus Collection.
		part of the Camoriage Press Coronavirus Concetion.
Friday, October 22,	Session 4: Intersectional History	Readings:
2021	The state of the s	
2:00 – 5:00pm	<b>Develop themes and focuses for Oral</b>	Kern: Feminist City: City of Men.
•	History Project	
		Donald A. Ritchie. <i>Doing Oral History 3<sup>rd</sup> edition</i> . Oxford:
		Oxford University Press, 2015, pp. 1-25 & 33-34, 45-72,
1		73-102.

Class Lead: Jacquie  Location: Brescia BR-201  Friday, November 12, 2021  2:00 – 5:00 pm  Class Lead: Anne Marie	Reading week is November 1-7  Session 5: Gendered Impacts of crisis and Recovery  Guest Panel	Readings:  Kern: Feminist City: City of One
Location: Brescia BR-201		
Friday, November 26, 2021  2:00 – 5:00 pm  Class Lead: Shawna  Location: Brescia BR-201	Session 6: GBA+ Planning	Readings: Tovi Fenster (2006) The Right to the Gendered City: Different Formations of Belonging in Everyday Life, Journal of Gender Studies, 14:3, 217-231  Jay Pitter. 2020. A Call to Courage: An Open Letter to Canadian Urbanists. June 2020. canurb.org  Video: Cities in the Time of COVID-19: How do we respond to anti-black racism in urbanist practices and conversations.
Friday, December 10, 2021  2:00 – 5:00 pm  Class Lead: Jacquie  Location: Brescia BR-201	Session 7: Neighbourhood and Mutual Aid	Readings: Leslie Kern, Feminist City: City of Friends.

		David Spade. 2020. "Solidarity Not Charity: Mutual Aid for Mobilization and Survival. Social Text. Vol. No. pp.
		Caroline Shenaz Hossein. 2020. Mutual Aid and Physical Distancing are Not New for Black and Racialized Minorities int the Americas. HistPhil. March 2020.
		Podcast: Mutual Aid on Lockdown: Madeleine from Mutual Aid Katarokwi on Creating Networks Of Neighbors to do Mutual Aid During A Pandemic (this is a podcast) <a href="https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/5-madeleine-from-mutual-aid-katarokwi-on-creating-networks/id1508116476?i=1000473036129">https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/5-madeleine-from-mutual-aid-katarokwi-on-creating-networks/id1508116476?i=1000473036129</a>
2022		
Friday, January 7,	Session 8: Movement Leadership	Readings:
2022	(Possible Guest Panel)	Leslie Kern, Feminist City: City of Protest
2:00 – 5:00 pm Class Lead:		Jacquetta Newman. "Acting In and On History; The Canadian Women's Movement," James Bickerton and Alain G. Gagnon(eds), <i>Canadian Politics</i> 7 <sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming.
Shawna Location: King's LH-220		Sarah Maddison. 2007. Feminist Perspectives on Social Movement Research, in Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber (ed) <i>Handbook of Feminist Research: Theory and Praxis</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 391-407
		Video: Kimberle Crenshaw, What Intersectionality Really Means for Movements.
		Black Lives Matter <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mePrVz_4yk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mePrVz_4yk</a>
Friday, January 21,	Session 9: Nonprofit Leadership	Readings:
2:00 – 5:00 pm		Resetting Normal: Women, Decent Work and Canada's Fractured Care Economy: A series of reports on gender equality and the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada. They
Class Lead: Anne Marie		explore risks to human rights exposed by the pandemic and propose new ways to build a gender-equal Canada in pandemic recovery efforts.
Location: King's LH-220		Decent Work for Women: A literature review of women working in Ontario's nonprofit sector. (March 2018) Ontario Nonprofit Network
		Stelian Medianu and Victoria Esses (Sept 2016) Report: Visible Minorities and Women in Senior Leadership

		Positions: London, Hamilton and Ottawa http://diversecityonboard.ca/wp-
		content/uploads/2017/08/visible minorities and women in
		senior_leadership_positions_report_1.pdf
Friday, February 4,	Session 10:	
2022	Session 10:	Readings:
	<b>Guest Panel</b>	Stalian Madiany and Victoria Essas (Sant 2016) Demonts
2:00 – 5:00 pm		Stelian Medianu and Victoria Esses (Sept 2016) Report: Visible Minorities and Women in Senior Leadership
		Positions: London, Hamilton and Ottawa
Class Lead:		Todayan, Tamanion and Cuarra
Anne Marie		
		Jacquetta Newman. 2009. "Small-P politics: Women
Location:		working outside formal political structures," in Mark Charlton and Paul Barker eds., <i>Crosscurrents</i> :
King's LH-220		Contemporary Political Issues, 6th edition. Toronto: Nelson
		Education Ltd., pp. 253-263.
	Reading Week is Feb 19-27 and	
Eriday Fahmany	includes Family day on Feb 21 Session 11: Political Leadership –	Readings:
Friday, February 18, 2022	Local Government and Civic	Acaumgs.
10, 2022	Engagement Cover Innert and Cover Engagement	Jacquetta Newman. 2009. "No: Say it Five Time Fast, The
2:00 – 5:00pm		Pitfalls of Small-P Politics," in Mark Charlton and Paul
		Barker eds., Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues,
Class Lead:		6 <sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd.
Anne Marie		Andrew Canatan 2015 "Chapter 1: What is I cool
Location:		Andrew Sancton. 2015. "Chapter 1: What is Local Government: An Urban Perspective, 2nd Edition (Don
King's LH-220		Mills: Oxford University Press) pp. 12-26
		7 /11
		Podcast: Municipal World. Triumphs and failures of
D 11 NO 1 4	0 . 10	evidence-based policy-making, Part 2 – Ashleigh Weeden
Friday, March 4, 2022	Session 12:	
2022	Final Conference Working session	
2:00 – 5:00pm	This concrete working session	
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Class Lead: all		
Location:		
King's LH 220		
g v		
	<u> </u>	
	March break 14-18	
Friday, March 25, 2022	Session 13: tentatively booked for possible Conference and poster	
<u>2044</u>	workshop	
2:00 – 5:00 pm		
Closs Loods all		
Class Lead: all		
Location:		
King's LH-220		

Saturday, April 2, 2022	ChangeMak(h)er Conference
Location TBC	Draft Agenda: 9:30 registration 10am-10:30 welcome, housekeeping, administration remarks 10:30-11:30 first session 11:30-12:30 lunch and poster walks 12:30-1:30 second session 1:30: 1:45 break transition 1:45 2:45 third session 3:00-3:15 – wrap-up and closing 3:30 depart

## **Course Competencies**

- **Communication:** The ability to exchange information and meaning across cultures, space, and time through appropriate means of communication. Includes oral, written, and interpersonal or group communication, as well as the ability to use current or innovative media.
- **Critical Thinking:** The ability to engage in thinking characterized by rational, informed, independent, and open-minded exploration of issues, ideas, and events accepting or formulating a conclusion.
- **Inquiry and Analysis:** The ability to reach informed decisions by breaking down complex issues, exploring evidence, and describing relationships among persons, things, or events.
- **Problem solving:** The ability to create and execute a strategy or answer a question or achieve a goal. Includes being able to anticipate the consequence of a potential solution, select a strategy among several alternatives and decide when an acceptable outcome has been reached.
- **Self-Awareness and Development:** The ability to draw meaning, knowledge, and value from honest and fair reflection and self-evaluation. Students are able to recognize their values and their impact on others, and make a commitment to personal growth.
- Valuing: The ability to make decisions or choose actions based on the consistent application of moral principles and ethical codes. Students also must be able to understand the ideas informing one's beliefs and be accountable for their actions.

2021-22 Brescia and King's University College Academic Policies and Regulations

#### 1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding <u>Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students</u> can be found at <a href="http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\_12">http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\_12</a>.

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (<a href="http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\_10">http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\_10</a>).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- 1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- 2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate** (**SMC**) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
- 3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

## Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements 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. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

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

- 1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- 2. The duration of the 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;
- 3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
- 4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
- 5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
- 6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
- 7. Students must communicate 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 fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

## Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic

responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

- 1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic">http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic</a> policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf;
- 2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
- 3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
- 4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
- 5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The <u>full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness</u> can be viewed at: <a href="http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\_12">http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\_12</a>

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

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 <a href="Registrar's website">Registrar's website</a>, <a href="http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/">http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/</a> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar

 $(\underline{http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?} SelectedCalendar = \underline{Live\&ArchiveID} =).$ 

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 eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility*.

### 3. ABSENCES

**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

(http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading 68).

#### 4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

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

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page 20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

## Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

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).

## **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. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

## 5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page 14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

## 6. Prerequisites

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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 prerequisite(s).

#### 7. SUPPORT

## **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <a href="http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/">http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/</a>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<a href="http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/">http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/</a>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<a href="https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/">https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/</a>)

## **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<a href="http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/">http://uwo.ca/health/mental\_wellbeing/index.html</a>.

#### **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.