

PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

Pathology 4500B / PathPA 9550B

Introduction to Forensic Sciences

Course Outline for Winter 2026

This course takes place at Western University, which is located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

Students who are in emotional and/or mental distress should refer to <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer

2. Important Dates:

Classes Begin	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 5	February 14–22	April 9	April 10, 11	April 12–30

January 13, 2026: Last day to add or drop a Winter 12-week course

March 30, 2026: Last day to withdraw from a Winter 12-week course without academic penalty

3. Contact Information

Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Dr. Patti Kiser	[Redacted]

Instructor(s) or Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information
	[Redacted]

4. Course Description and Design

Delivery Mode: In-person

Description: Examination of the medicolegal framework investigating the nature and circumstance of certain deaths. These forensic investigations involve experts in different disciplines assisting the coroner and police in resolving cases. Forensic pathology examines the effects of disease, particularly in sudden death, an effects of various external agents on the human body.

Prerequisites: Pathology 3500 with a mark of at least 70% or the former Pathology 3240A and 3245B with a minimum mark of 70% in each. Restricted to students in Year 4 of Pathology and Toxicology modules. Limited spaces available to students in Year 4 of other Basic Medical Sciences and Biological Sciences modules, with permission of the course director. **Corequisite(s):** none **Extra Information:** 2 lecture hours, 0.5 course. Limited Enrolment.

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.

Timetabled Sessions

Component	Date(s)	Time
Lectures	Fridays	8:30am-10:30am

Attendance at sessions is required

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL Brightspace site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Course Goal

- To provide the student with the understanding of the medical and legal framework surrounding certain deaths and the nature and circumstances of certain deaths.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the scientific and conceptual basis of a medicolegal death investigation
- Explain how the Coroners Act of Ontario defines the duties and responsibilities of persons involved in medicolegal death investigations.
- Understand the concepts and scientific basis for determination of the cause and manner of death.
- Explain different methods of postmortem body identification.
- Describe postmortem changes of bodies.
- Explain what knowledge can be obtained by forensic anthropological examination of human remains.
- Understand the major causes of sudden natural unexpected death.

- Understand the features of investigations of non-natural deaths caused by: blunt force, sharp force, firearms, asphyxia, environmental injury, head trauma, fires, motor vehicle-related injury.
- Learn how various drugs and poisons can cause death.
- Appreciate the unique aspects of pediatric death investigations.
- Develop skills to concisely articulate a concept in both written and oral formats
- Develop skills to critically appraise the steps of the autopsy

6. Course Content and Schedule

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	LECTURER
Friday, January 9, 2026	8:30-9:00am	Course introduction	Dr. P. Kiser
	9:00-10:30am	Structure and Function of Ontario Death Investigation System Cause/Manner of Death	Dr. R. Jacques
Friday, January 16, 2026	8:30-9:30am	Body Identification	Dr. E. Tugaleva
	9:30-10:30am	Time of Death Determination, Postmortem Changes	
Friday, January 23, 2026	8:30-9:30am	Toxicology and Drug-related Deaths	Dr. E. Tweedie
	9:30-10:30am		
Friday, January 30, 2026	8:30-9:30am	Natural Deaths	Dr. R. Jacques
	9:30-10:30am	In-Class Assignment	Dr. P. Kiser
Friday, February 6, 2026	8:30-9:30am	Penetrating Trauma: Firearms Injuries & Cutting/ Stabbing	Dr. M. Shkrum
	9:30-10:30am	PechaKucha Abstract due in class	
Friday, February 13, 2026	8:30-9:30am	Blunt Trauma: Motor Vehicle Related Deaths	Dr. M. Shkrum
	9:30-10:30am		
FEBRUARY 14-22, 2026		READING WEEK	
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	6:30pm-9:30p	MIDTERM EXAM - Covers up to and including Feb 13 material	
Friday, February 27, 2026	8:30-9:30am	Fire Deaths	Dr. E. Tugaleva
	9:30-10:30am	Mass Fatalities	
Friday, March 6, 2026	8:30-9:30am	Asphyxia	Dr. E. Tweedie
	9:30-10:30am	Environmental Injuries	
Friday, March 13, 2026	8:30-9:30am	Expert Witness	Dr. C. Sherrin
	9:30-10:30am	Veterinary Forensics In-Class Assignment	Dr. P. Kiser
Friday, March 20, 2026	8:30-9:30am	Neuropathology	Dr. Q. Zhang
	9:30-10:30am	Forensic Anthropology (VIRTUAL)	Dr. T. Rogers
Friday, March 27, 2026	8:30-9:30am	PechaKucha presentation	Dr. P. Kiser
	9:30-10:30am		
Friday, April 3, 2026		GOOD FRIDAY	
APRIL 12-30, 2026		FINAL EXAM PERIOD	

7. Participation and Engagement

- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate during lecture sessions
- Students need to submit their completed confidentiality statement form prior to attending their first class

8. Assessment and Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated. Additional assessment information will be available through OWL Brightspace.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date	Flexibility
Midterm Test	Mixed format	20%	See schedule	Not applicable
Final Examination	Mixed format	30%	See schedule	Not applicable
Assignments	Oral Presentation, Written	20%	See schedule	Written makeup assignment
PechaKucha Abstract	Written	10%	See schedule	72-hour no late penalty
PechaKucha Presentation	Oral Presentation	20%	See schedule	Not applicable

Designated Assessment: Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. See below for information on academic consideration policy and missed course work. For this course, the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation:

- PechaKucha Presentation

Information about flexibility in assessment

- Flexibility in assessment has been applied to this course; therefore, academic consideration requests may be denied on the assessments where flexibility is included
- PechaKucha Abstract: should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their abstract up to 72 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. If you have a long- term academic consideration or an accommodation for disability that allows greater flexibility than provided here, please reach out to your instructor at least one week prior to the posted deadline.
- Assignments: This course will have 2 Assignments to be completed in class as scheduled above in the course outline. If students are unable to attend these sessions, they will have the option to submit a makeup assignment. This makeup assignment will be marked and the grade will be applied to the missed Assignment.

General information about assessments

- All assignments are due at 11:59 PM EST unless otherwise specified
- Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded; incorrect submissions including corrupt files could be subject to late penalties (see below) or a 0
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions

- A student might not receive the same grade as their group members if it is determined that the distribution of work was not equal
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days
- Assessment re-grading could result in the mark, increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same
- Prior to the filing of a written request for relief, students must attempt to resolve the concern regarding a mark or grade through informal consultation with the instructor. If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the instructor or does not receive a decision from the instructor, a written request for relief must be submitted to the Department Chair within three (3) weeks from the date that the mark was issued.
- Both the test/exam will consist of short answer questions. The final exam will cover ALL material covered. Examination questions may be based on information that is not explicitly provided in the notes.
- When deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.
- Any grade appeals on assignments, quizzes, or midterms must be received within 3 weeks of the grade being posted.

The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed assessments:

- Late assessments without academic consideration will be subject to a late penalty 10%/day
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; an alternate assessment will be assigned
- A make-up test will not be offered, and the weight of a missed test will be transferred to the final examination
- The final exam must be completed to pass the course. If these elements are missed, the student will receive an INC and complete the task the next time the course is offered.
- Only one special examination (see below) will be offered in January

INC (Incomplete Standing): If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office (in consultation with the instructor/department) to complete term work at a later date, an INC will be assigned, which could impact program progression. Students with INC will have their course load in subsequent terms reduced to allow them to complete outstanding course work. Students may request permission from Academic Advising to carry a full course load for the term the incomplete course work is scheduled.

SPC (Special examination): If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office to write a Special Examination and the final exam is the only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned. If the class has a makeup exam, the student is expected to write the makeup exam. If the class

doesn't have a makeup for the final exam or the student misses the makeup for the final exam for reasons approved by the Academic Advising Office, the student will write the exam the next time the course is offered, which could impact program progression. Outstanding SPCs will reduce the course load for the term the exam is deferred as outlined in [Definitions of Types of Examinations](#) policy.

9. Communication

- Students should check the OWL Brightspace site every 24–48 hours
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using email.
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24–48 hours
- Students should post all course-related queries on the discussion forum so that everyone can access the questions and responses

10. Office Hours

- Office hours will be held by appointment with the TA

11. Course Materials

- All resources will be posted on OWL Brightspace
- Required textbook (see list below)
- Additional resources (see below)

Lecture Notes:

Lecture notes for most presentations will be posted on the OWL course site. These notes should **not** be considered completely comprehensive and sufficient for student learning. They supplement the material presented in class. The powerpoint presentations shown in class will not be posted due to the graphic nature of some of the images presented.

Disclaimer:

***Students should be aware and prepared for the fact that the nature of the course content is such that graphic and potentially disturbing images will be shown and tragic and disturbing forensic cases will be discussed. An effort is made to omit information in order to prevent revealing specific identifying information about the events discussed. ***

1. A mandatory e-book resource is available through Western Libraries:
[Knight's forensic pathology, 4th Ed.](#)
By Bernard Knight and Pekka Saukko: London : Arnold : New York ; Oxford University [distributor], c 2004
2. A mandatory e-report is available via the link below
Goudge Inquiry; Vol. 1 (Executive Summary)
https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/inquiries/goudge/report/v1_en_pdf/Vol_1_Eng.pdf
3. A mandatory journal article via the link below:
Lachs MS and Pillemer KA. Elder abuse. N Engl J Med. 2015;373:1947-1956.
https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMra1404688?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%3dwww.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

4. A mandatory journal article via the link below:
Miah A. The public autopsy: somewhere between art, education and entertainment. J Med. Ethics. 2004;30:576-570.
<https://jme.bmj.com/content/30/6/576>

5. A mandatory book chapter by Christen et al. on Forensic Anthropology.
 A recommended supplemental e-book resource is available through Western Libraries:
Forensic pathology for forensic scientists, police, and death investigators
 By Joseph Prahlow Totowa, N.J.: London: Humana ; Springer [distributor], c2010
http://books2.scholarsportal.info.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/viewdoc.html?id=/ebooks/ebooks2/springer/2_011-03-04/1/9781597454049

6. A mandatory article entitled: Understanding the role of forensic disciplines in the search for residential schools missing children. Available on course Website.

7. A mandatory book chapter that is available through Western Libraries:
General Principles of Veterinary Forensic Sciences and Medicine. Bradley-Siemens, Nancy; Byrd, Jason H.; Bradley-Siemens, Nancy ; Norris, Patricia. Veterinary Forensic Medicine and Forensic Sciences, 2021, p.21-33

Assigned Reading by Topic (see Schedule to align reading)

Topic	Instructor
Death Investigation Systems: Knight's Chapter 1 (p1-32) Total pages: 32	Dr. Jacques
Identification & Postmortem changes: Knight's Chapter 3 (p95-101) Total pages: 7	Dr. Tugaleva
Toxicology: Knight's Chapter 27 (p567-574) Total pages 8	Dr. Tweedie
Natural Deaths: Knight's Chapter 25 (p515-521, 537-548) Total pages: 18	Dr. Jacques
Penetrating Trauma: Knight's chapter 4 (133-135, 139-148) & 9 (p277-282) Total pages 19 Knight's chapter 8 (p241-244) Total pages: 4 pages	Dr. Shkrum
Blunt Trauma & Pediatric Deaths Knight's Chapter 4 (p149-152) Total pages: 4 Goudge Inquiry Vol 1. (p8-10); Total pages 3	Dr. Shkrum
Fire Deaths & Mass Fatalities Knight's Chapter 11 (p311-320) Total pages: 9	Dr. Tugaleva
Law & Ethics: Journal article: Miah A. The public autopsy: somewhere between art, education and entertainment. J Med. Ethics. 2004;30:576-570. Understanding the role of forensic disciplines in the search for residential schools missing children. Total pages: 16	Dr. Sherrin Dr. Jacques
Asphyxia & Environmental injuries: Knight's chapter 14 (p353-358) Total pages: 6 Knight's chapter 16 (p405-409) Total pages: 4	Dr. Tweedie

Neuropathology & Anthropology Knight's chapter 5 (p167-171;173-176) Total pages: 9 Knight's Chapter 3 (p103-108, 115-116, 120-123): Total pages: 9 Introduction to forensic anthropology. Total pages: 29	Dr. Zhang Dr. Rogers
Veterinary Pathology Bradley-Siemens Chapter 2 (p21-33) Total pages: 12	Dr. Kiser

12. Professionalism & Privacy

Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted** and cannot be sold/shared/upload (e.g., Must Knows Facebook group, Course Hero, Chegg, ChatGPT, etc.)
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video)** without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed**
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments

Western is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. All **students**, staff, and faculty have a role in this commitment and have a responsibility to ensure and promote a safe and respectful learning and working environment. Relevant policies include Western's [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35) and [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy – Administrative Procedures](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35). Any **student**, staff, or faculty member who experiences or witnesses' behaviour that may be harassment or discrimination **must report the behaviour** to the Western's [Human Rights Office](#). Harassment and discrimination can be human rights-based, which is also known as EDI-based, (sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, islamophobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, and ableism) or non-human rights-based (personal harassment or workplace harassment).

13. How to Be Successful in this Class

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule your time throughout the course.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL Brightspace to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow checklists created on OWL Brightspace or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

14. Western Academic Policies/Procedures and Statements

A. Absence from Course Commitments

Medical, Compassionate, or Extenuating Circumstances

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the [central academic consideration portal](#). Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes) or there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Policy: [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Procedures: [Student Medical Certificate](#)

Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays (Appendix 1). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Policy: [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#)

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates.

Policy: [Definitions of Types of Examinations](#)

B. Academic Appeals and Scholastic Offenses

Students can file a **request for relief from academic decisions** if the request is based on one or more grounds listed in the policy. Requests for relief generally fall into three categories, which are also listed in the policy. All requests for relief must be supported by evidence. A request for relief from academic decisions process was formally referred to as an appeal. Refer to the policy and procedures about further details and timelines.

Policy: [Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions](#)

Procedures: [Undergraduate Student Academic Requests for Relief](#)

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offence.

Policy: [Scholastic Offences](#)

Procedures: [Undergraduate Scholastic Offences](#)

Students may **appeal** some academic and scholastic disciplinary decisions by a Dean or their designate, to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA).

Policy: [Senate Review Board Academic Appeals](#)

Procedures: [Senate Review Board Academic Appeals](#)

C. Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Policy: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

D. Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

E. Discovery Credit Statement

Students are permitted to designate up to 1.0 Discovery Credit course (or equivalent) for pass/fail grading that can be counted toward the overall course credits required for their degree program.

Policy: [Undergraduate Course Credit](#)

Procedures: [Discovery Credits](#)

F. Statement on the Use of Electronic Devices

[Insert a clear statement of what electronic devices will or will not be allowed during tests and examinations.]

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

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism.

All assignments must reflect the student's own analysis and writing. Any sources, including AI tools, must be appropriately acknowledged to uphold academic integrity and avoid plagiarism. By following these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry, and original contributions.

H. Turnitin and other similarity review software

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](https://www.turnitin.com).

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.

I. 15% Rule

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. Generally, students can expect some form of feedback on their performance in a course before the drop date. In rare instances, at the Dean's discretion, an exemption can be issued, which also must be noted in the course syllabus. Deans should review exemptions on a course-by-course basis each time an exempted course is offered.

Policy: [Evaluation of Academic Performance](#)

15. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

A. Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy (for in-person tests and exams)

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is committed to ensuring that testing and evaluation are undertaken fairly across all our departments and programs. For all tests and exams, it is the policy of the School that any electronic devices, e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glasses, smart watch or iPod are strictly prohibited. These devices **MUST** be left either at home or with the student's bag/jacket at the front of the room and **MUST NOT** be at the test/exam desk or in the individual's pocket. Any student found with one of these prohibited devices will receive a grade of zero on the test or exam and this will be documented as a Scholastic Offence. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The program is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.

B. Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course materials produced by faculty are copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

C. Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** in this course are rounded to the nearest whole number based on the first decimal place. For example, a grade of 74.49 or lower will be rounded to 74, whereas 74.50 or higher will be rounded to 75.

Marks WILL NOT be arbitrarily increased to the next grade or GPA, e.g., a 79 will NOT be increased to an 80, and 84 WILL NOT be increased to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for arbitrary mark increasing will be denied. Marks will be assigned based on assessments in the syllabus and no extra work or tasks will be assigned to increase a mark.

Course grade rounding provisions, as described above, differ from cumulative and term averages. Cumulative and term averages will be calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number with .45 rounded up, for the purposes of admission to and progression in modules, scholarship retention, and Dean's Honour List.

Policy: [Marks/Grades; Definitions of Grades; Grading Scale for Undergraduate Students](#)

16. Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @Western <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western 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 the following website:

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

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Other important links:

- [Academic Advising \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)
- [Learning Development and Success](#)
- [Office of the Registrar](#)
- [Wellness & Wellbeing](#)
- [Western USC Services](#)

Appendix 1: Western University Academic Policies and Procedures

The policies and procedures listed in this syllabus are outlined in the table below. In some cases, a policy does not include an accompanied procedures document.

Academic Policy	Name of Policy/Procedure	Links
General Policy	Marks/Grades; Definitions of Grades; Grading Scale for Undergraduate Students	Policy
General Policy	Structure of the Academic Year	Policy
Registration, Progression, Graduation	Course Numbering Policy, Essay Courses, and Hours of Instruction	Policy
Registration, Progression, Graduation	Undergraduate Course Credit	Policy • Procedures
Examinations	Definitions of Types of Examinations	Policy
Examinations	Evaluation of Academic Performance	Policy
Examinations	Examination Conflicts	Policy
Rights and Responsibilities	Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities	Policy
Rights and Responsibilities	Accommodation for Religious Holidays	Policy
Rights and Responsibilities	Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs	Policy • Procedures
Rights and Responsibilities	Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions (Undergraduate)	Policy • Procedures
Rights and Responsibilities	Requests for Relief from Academic Decisions (Graduate)	Policy • Procedures
Rights and Responsibilities	Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate)	Policy • Procedures
Rights and Responsibilities	Senate Review Board Academic Appeals	Policy • Procedures