

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**Department of Philosophy**

**PHILOSOP 1030a**  
**Understanding Science**

Students are required to attend class and participate in class discussion, and are responsible for all information conveyed in class. There is no attendance mark for class attendance.

Students are also required to attend weekly tutorials; tutorial attendance will be recorded, and an attendance mark for tutorials will be assigned.

There are two tests, a midterm test, held during class hour, on Monday, Oct. 28, and a final exam scheduled by the Registrar during the December exam period. Students who, for acceptable reasons, miss the midterm must contact their academic counsellor no later than 48 hours after the test, and preferably, if circumstances permit, before the test. There will be a make-up midterm at a time and date to be announced, approximately one week after the midterm.

Students are expected to be familiar with the policy on academic consideration:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

There are four short assignments, worth 6 points each. Of the first three, we will drop the lowest grade; this means that the first three assignments are worth a total of 12 points. The fourth assignment is not optional. Requests for academic consideration for the first three assignments will be denied.

In addition, there will be two more substantive assignments, worth 9 and 15 points each.

Details of all assignments will be found on OWL Brightspace.

Tutorial participation:	3%
Assignments 1—3 (6% each; drop lowest)	12%
# 1 Internet research exercise, part 1 (due Sept. 23)	
# 2 Internet research exercise, part 2 (due Oct.11)	
# 3 Evaluating a news article (due Oct. 23)	
Assignment 4: A simple experiment (due Nov. 13)	6%
Assignment 5: ChatGPT evaluation (due Nov. 6)	9%
Assignment 6: Evaluating a news source (due Nov. 27)	15%
Tests:	
Midterm (Oct. 28)	25%
Final (Take home, Dec. exam period, date TBA)	30%
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	100%

### **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES**

The Department of Philosophy policies that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html> . It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

### **AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Students are permitted to bring laptops or other electronic devices to class for the purpose of taking notes. Use of these devices during class for purposes not related to the course is not permitted. Students who wish to record lectures must receive permission from the instructor; recording without permission is not permitted.

No aids are permitted for the exams. Electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.

### **STATEMENT ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)**

All assignments are to be your own work. You are permitted to use a spell checker or grammar software, but you are not permitted to use generative AI language modules such as ChatGPT. Submitting work that contains text generated by software counts as plagiarism and is an academic offense. If plagiarism or unauthorized AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes and/or drafts of assignments after the assignment has been submitted. Students must keep all notes and first drafts until the assignment is returned to them

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide docum

- a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
- b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
- c. Supporting documentation as relevant

Requests without supporting documentation are limited to one per term per course.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner. Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term always require formal supporting documentation.

### **Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs**

#### **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION**

Western's Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be found here:  
[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_rnWtty\\_ttys\\_pccomm\\_ound](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_rnWtty_ttys_pccomm_ound) or [Rel.res](#)

## **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends (24/7 availability).

## **GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](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](mailto:support@uwo.ca).