ECONOMETRICS II
ECONOMICS EC2223 B-002
Department of Economics
Western University

Winter 2021

General Information

Instructor	Jorge Cruz Lopez
Term	Winter (January 11 to April 12, 2021)
Office	SSC 4091
Phone	519-661-2111 ext. 85323
Email	jcruzlop@uwo.ca
Course Website	https://owl.uwo.ca/portal
Lecture Times	Thursdays 7:00PM to 10:00PM
Lecture Location	**Synchronous online (via Zoom)**
Office Hours	Mondays 7:00PM to 9:00PM (by appointment via Zoom)
Final Exam Date	**No Final Exam**
Credits	0.50
Prerequisites	Economics 2222A/B or Statistical Sciences 2035 (with a mark of 70) or Statistical Sciences 2858A/B.
Antirequisites	Economics 2123A/B.
Calendar Description	Economics 2223A/B is an introductory course in regression analysis which covers: multivariate probability distributions; the classical linear regression model; heteroskedasticity; autocorrelation; introduction to time series; unit roots and cointegration; dynamic linear models; diagnostic testing; instrumental variables; nonlinearities and limited dependent variables.
Program Inquiries	519-661-3507or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca
Important Notice	The instructor will be working and teaching remotely this semester due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please use Zoom with your Western account to attend lectures and office hours. **Students are required to have a computer with a functioning microphone and webcam. Students are also required to turn on their webcam during class. Lectures will not be recorded or distributed to students** (see Method of Instruction and Attendance Requirements).

Registration

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at https://student.uwo.ca. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note

The prerequisites for this course are: Economics 2222A/B or Statistical Sciences 2035 (with a mark of 70) or Statistical Sciences 2858A/B. The antirequisites for this course are: Economics 2123A/B.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any antirequisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Please note that to understand econometric models, students must understand basic statistics. The course will include a review of some of the statistical principles needed for this the course. However, this review is not a substitute for the material covered in pre-requisite courses. Students are responsible for reviewing and understanding the statistical principles covered in pre-requisite courses.

Course Objectives

This course provides an introduction to univariate and multivariate regression analysis in the context of assessing economic relationships. The course focuses on understanding the linear regression model, its underlying assumptions, and the distributional properties of different estimators. Particular attention will be given to cases where model assumptions are breached (e.g., due to heteroskedasticity, autocorrelation or endogeneity) and robust estimators are required for a proper assessment. The course builds on the concepts covered in prerequisite courses and shows how to construct confidence intervals, conduct hypothesis testing, and perform basic time series and panel analyses.

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of the course, students should be able to:
1. Use regression models to analyze economic relationships
2. Interpret the meaning of regression coefficients
3. Construct confidence intervals and conduct hypothesis tests using linear regression models
4. Identify cases that require the use of robust estimators

Technical Requirements

Students are required to have access to the following hardware and software while taking this course:
- Laptop or desktop computer with teleconferencing capabilities (i.e., with a working microphone and webcam).
- Stable internet connection
- R, R Studio, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint and a PDF Reader/Editor.
- Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox (preferred for OWL)

The instructor is not responsible for providing technical support. If you require technical assistance, please consult OWL's Help page or contact the Technology Services Helpdesk.

Required Textbooks

Wooldridge, J. M., (2019), Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach, 7th Edition, South-Western College Pub. ISBN-10: 1337558869.

Kennedy, P., (2008), A Guide to Econometrics, 6th Edition, Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN-10: 1405182571.

Suggested Textbooks

Students should consider using the following books to support their learning for this course and for future reference:

Anderson, D., Sweeney, D., Williams, T., Camm, J., Cochran, J., Fry, M., Ohlmann, J., (2019), Statistics for Business and Economics, 14th Edition, South-Western College Pub. ISBN-10: 1337901067.

Campbell, J. Y., Lo, A. W., MacKinlay, A. C., (1996), The Econometrics of Financial Markets, 2nd Edition, Princeton University Press. ISBN-10: 0691043019.

Cotton, R. (2013), Learning R, First Edition, O'Reilly Media. ISBN-10: 1449357105.

Greene, W., (2017), Econometric Analysis, 8th Edition, Pearson. ISBN-10: 0134461363.

Grolemund, G. (2014), Hands-On Programming with R: Write Your Own Functions and Simulations, First Edition, O'Reilly Media. ISBN-10: 1449359019.

Newbold, P., Carlson, W., Thorne, B., (2012), Statistics for Business and Economics, 8th Edition, Pearson. ISBN-10: 0132745658.

Pindyck, R. S., and Rubinfeld, D. L., (1997), Econometric Models and Economic Forecasts, 4th Edition, McGraw-Hill/Irwin. ISBN-10: 0070502080.

Studenmund, A. H., (2016), Using Econometrics: A Practical Guide, 7th Edition, Pearson. ISBN-10: 013418274X.

Wickham, H., and Grolemund, G. (2017), R for Data Science: Import, Tidy, Transform, Visualize, and Model Data, First Edition, O'Reilly Media. ISBN-10: 1491910399.

Additional Material

Lecture notes, practice problems, assignments and other supplemental material will be available through the course website. Additional readings (e.g., book chapters, academic articles, etc.) will be available through the course website or the University Library.

Materials available for download from the course website will be posted in HTML, PDF, MS PowerPoint, MS Word, MS Excel, Text, CSV, R and R Studio format. Students should have access to software packages to access these files while taking the course.

Method of Instruction

There will be one lecture per week delivered online via Zoom. The zoom link will be distributed to registered students ahead of the first lecture. **Please note that only participants using UWO credentials will be given access to lectures. Students are required to turn on their cameras during lectures.** If a student faces an extraordinary circumstance that makes using the camera impossible, the student must contact the instructor in advance to request special permission for different arrangements.

Lectures will consist of a combination of presentations and class discussions. In addition to the graded components of the course (see Grading section), a set of **required readings** will be assigned every week (see Course Schedule and Readings section). **Students must complete all required readings prior to the lecture to which they are assigned.**

Lectures are expected to be interactive and active participation is strongly encouraged and graded. During lectures, the instructor will randomly select students to present a summary of the assigned readings. Students will be granted participation marks based on the quality of their summaries and class discussions.

Please note that due to time constraints, not all assigned materials (e.g., readings, assignments, etc.) will be covered during scheduled class meetings. However, students are still responsible for studying these materials as they will be tested or included in graded components of the course.

Attendance Requirements

Students enrolled in the course are expected to attend all online lectures (see Method of Instruction section) at the scheduled times (see General Information section). **Please do not register for this course if you cannot attend lectures at the scheduled times or if you do not have a computer with a working microphone and webcam.**

Lectures for this course will not be recorded or distributed to students. In addition, students are neither allowed to record nor allowed to distribute any lectures, class sessions, meetings, presentations, or any other course materials (see Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright section).

Except for students with approved accommodations or a documented illness, no special provisions will be made for students who miss a lecture. Prior to registering in this course, students should understand that their absences could adversely affect their overall class performance. **Therefore, students who cannot attend class regularly should not enroll in the course, and if they do, they do so at their own risk.**

Online Etiquette

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for all students, please honor the following rules of etiquette:
- Connect to class on time.
- Use a desktop computer or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet).
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions.
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise.
- Please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor's request if the internet connection becomes unstable.
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting.

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate, please follow these guidelines:
- If you wish to speak, use the "raise hand" function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question.
- Remember to unmute your microphone and make sure that your video camera is on before speaking.
- Self-identify when speaking.
- Remember to mute your microphone after speaking, unless directed otherwise.

Other general considerations:
- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.
- Note that disruptive behavior of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable.
- Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Office Hours

All office hours will be held online via Zoom. The zoom link will be distributed to registered students during the first lecture.

To facilitate coordination and the proper use of online resources, students are required to make an appointment 24hrs in advance if they plan to attend office hours.

Students having difficulty understanding the course material are strongly encouraged to attend office hours as soon as possible to clarify their understanding. Most of the topics covered in the course require a clear understanding of concepts previously covered in class or in prerequisite courses.

During office hours, the instructor will try to explain the concepts that need clarification. **For questions involving assignments, students are required to show that they have attempted to solve the assigned problems before the instructor provides any assistance. The instructor will not give the answers to any of the problems in the assignments prior to their due date.**

Communications

Except for lectures and office hours, students should use email for communicating with the instructor. **Questions that require the explanation of complex concepts or typing equations should only be asked during office hours and will not be answered by email.**

Emails will be answered within 24 hours <u>during weekdays only</u>. Emails sent on Fridays or during the weekend will be answered the following Monday. Emails sent during a holiday, will be answered the next working day.

Student emails should include the course code (i.e., Econ 2223) in the subject line and the student's full name and ID in the signature. The instructor will only answer emails from Western University accounts. Emails from third party accounts will be disregarded.

Grading

Participation	5%
Assignments (4 Problem Sets)	40%
Quizzes (Best 4 out of 5)	55%
Total	**100%**

Participation

Work type:
- Individual

Context:
- Students are expected to actively contribute to class discussions.
- During each lecture, the instructor will randomly select a few students to present a summary of the assigned readings for that lecture.

Evaluation:
- Students will be evaluated based on the quality of their contributions to class discussions, as well as on their demonstrated ability to summarize, explain and apply the concepts covered in class and in the assigned readings.
- Students will have the option to complete a **Preliminary Math and Statistics Test (PMST)** during the first few weeks of the semester (see Course Schedule and Readings section). Students can accumulate participation marks by fully completing the PMST. Additional instructions regarding the PMST will be provided during the first lecture.

Assignments (4 Problem Sets)

Work type:
- Groups (minimum 3 students, maximum 4 students)

Context:
- Students are required to **solve four problem sets in groups**.
- Students must register their groups by the deadline specified in the Course Schedule and Readings section. To register a group, students must complete the *Group Registration Form* provided in the course website. Once completed, the communications representative of the group should submit the form by email to the instructor.
- Students may select their group members, but groups must remain unchanged throughout the duration of the course. Students not registered in a group by the registration deadline, will be placed in groups at random.
- **With the exception of the last assignment, all assignments must be submitted by the beginning of the session when they are due** (see Course Schedule and Readings section). Students should check the course website regularly to know when a new assignment is posted and when it is due.
- **To submit an assignment, students are required to upload an electronic copy of their work to the course website**. **Assignments submitted by email will not be accepted.**

- Each assignment should include **a single PDF file** with answers to all problems (including all relevant work) and, if applicable, clear references to all appendixes or additional files used to solve each section (e.g., MS Excel spreadsheets, computer code, etc.). All relevant files used to solve the assignment should be uploaded to the course website as part of a complete submission.
- **Assignments must be typed and include the *Group Assignment Grading Sheet* provided in the course website.** Equations and some calculations may be handwritten but all handwriting must be clear and legible. No marks will be given for work that is difficult to read or understand.
- Students should always keep copies of their assignments for their own records.
- Students are expected to know how to use MS Excel, R and R Studio, which might be required for completing assignments and other graded components of this course.

Evaluation:
- Each assignment will be graded out of 100 marks.
- Each group will be graded based on the accuracy and style of its assignments.
- In addition, each student's individual contribution will be evaluated by other group members using the *Group Assignment Grading Sheet.* Instructions on how to use the *Group Assignment Grading Sheet* will be provided during the first lecture.
- Except for extenuating circumstances, where all students in a group are granted accommodation according to University policies and procedures (see the *Policy on Tests, Final Exams and on Missed Academic Responsibilities* below), **late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.**
- **Graded assignments will be returned to students within two weeks of their submission.**

Quizzes

Work type:
- Individual

Context:
- Students are required to write **five quizzes.**
- **Quizzes will take place during lectures.** Students are required to solve all quizzes during the time allotted in class and they must follow the University online proctoring guidelines, which include keeping cameras on (with no background filters) during the entire quiz.
- **Quizzes are cumulative** and will cover all the material assigned up to and including the date of the quiz (i.e., class notes, assignments, problems and required readings).
- **Quizzes are closed-book and closed-notes assessments that must be solved individually.** Students who try to consult their textbooks, notes or other external resources while solving a quiz will likely run out of time and will not be able to complete the assessment.
- Students are only allowed to use the following materials when solving a quiz:
  - Personal computer to access the quiz through the course website (no other material or communications should be accessed with a computer or personal device)
  - Pens, pencils, scrap paper and erasers
  - Non-programmable calculators
  - One required formula sheet

- **The required formula sheets should <u>only</u> include formulas** (i.e., paragraphs, graphs, and other materials are not allowed). The formula sheet for quizzes 1 to 3 should not exceed one single-sided page. The formula sheet for quizzes 4 and 5 should not exceed one double-sided page. In both cases, a page refers to a letter size page (215.9 × 279.4 millimeters or 8.50 × 11.00 inches). Violations will be subject to mark deductions.
- **Students are required to upload their formula sheets to the course website prior to the beginning of the lecture when a quiz is scheduled.** Failure to do so will result in mark deductions.
- **Formula sheets should be written and uploaded individually and cannot be shared among students.**
- Students should check the course website regularly to confirm the date and time of each quiz (see Course Schedule and Readings section).

Evaluation:
- Each quiz will be graded out of 100 marks.
- Final course grades will be determined using the best four (out of five) quizzes; that is, the four quizzes with the highest grades.
- Except for extenuating circumstances, where a student is granted accommodation according to University policies and procedures (see the *Policy on Tests, Final Exams and on Missed Academic Responsibilities* below), **late quizzes or quizzes not written during scheduled times will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.**
- **Grades will be uploaded in the course website <u>within two weeks of the quiz date.</u>**

Missing a Quiz or a Deadline

Quizzes:
- **Missing a quiz without a documented justification and accommodation granted in accordance with University policies and procedures will result in a grade of zero for that component of the course.**
- In accordance with University policies, students unable to write a quiz because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control must contact the instructor in writing as soon as possible explaining the situation.
- If a student misses one quiz and has been granted accommodation in accordance with University policies and procedures, the student's final grade will be determined based on the performance of the four remaining quizzes (i.e., the missed quiz will be treated as the quiz with the lowest mark and it will be dropped from the final grade calculation).
- If a student misses a second quiz and has been granted accommodation in accordance with University policies and procedures, the weight of the second missed quiz will be distributed across the remaining quizzes written by the student.
- Students who have missed one or more quizzes and have been granted accommodation in accordance with University policies and procedures might be given a longer or more difficult quiz than those given to students who have not missed any quizzes. These modifications are needed to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the course material.
- **If a student misses three or more quizzes, the student will fail to complete the necessary work for assessing course performance. In this case, the student will receive a failing grade** unless the student has been granted accommodation in accordance with University policies and procedures.

Assignments:
- **Missing a deadline will result in obtaining a grade of zero in the corresponding course component.** If students are in a situation where they cannot meet a deadline, they should **contact the instructor at least 24hrs prior to the deadline** to discuss a possible extension. Extensions are only granted in very special circumstances and only when the student has been granted accommodation in accordance with University policies and procedures (see the *Policy on Tests, Final Exams and on Missed Academic Responsibilities* below).

Appealing a Grade

Assignments and Quizzes:
- If students disagree with the grade obtained in an assignment or a quiz, they should submit an email to the instructor with a request to get their assignment or quiz regraded.
- Regrading requests should state why the grade should be reviewed and they must be submitted no later than one week after the grade for the assignment or quiz in question is released to students. Except as allowed by [university academic appeals policies](#), no claims will be accepted after this period.

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright

Professionalism:
- Students are expected to behave honestly and professionally, and to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Privacy and Copyright:
- All lectures and all course materials, including discussions, lecture notes, presentations, supplementary notes, outlines, syllabi, etc. are **protected by copyright**.
- Students may take <u>written notes</u> of the materials covered in class for their own educational purposes <u>only</u>. Any other type of information recording or data transfer is not allowed. Students are also not allowed to distribute their written notes or any other course materials publicly or for commercial purposes without the written consent of the course instructor.
- **Except for the course instructor, participants in this course are NOT allowed to record or distribute any audio, video or any other type of medium or information relating to the course, including lectures, class sessions, meetings, presentations, assignments, readings, lecture notes, or any other course materials.** No student, Teaching Assistant, or any other person or entity may record (or allow others to record), reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post (or allow others to post) or distribute (or allow others to distribute) lectures, class sessions, meetings, presentations, lecture notes, wiki material, or any other course materials publicly or for commercial purposes without the written consent of the course instructor.

Revisions

Changes to the Course Syllabus:
- Every effort has been taken to make the information in this document as complete and as consistent as possible. However, **the instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus or required materials at his discretion.**
- If this document is changed, the instructor will communicate the changes to students registered in the course by email and an updated version of the syllabus will be posted on the course website

Course Schedule and Readings[1]

Week	Lecture	Topics	Required Readings	Notes
1	Jan 14	Introduction and Course Overview	W: Ch. 1, Appx. A*, B*, C*	Recommended: W: Appx. D
2	Jan 21	The Simple Regression Model	W: Ch. 2 K: Ch. 1, 2, Appx. A	**Due: Math Pre-Test (Jan 22)**
3	Jan 28	Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation	W: Ch. 3 K: Ch. 3	**Quiz 1**
4	Feb 4	Multiple Regression Analysis: Inference	W: Ch. 4 K: Ch. 4	**Due: Group Registration (Feb 5)**
5	Feb 11	Multiple Regression Analysis: OLS Asymptotics and Further Issues	W: Ch. 5*, 6 K: Appx. C	**Due: A1**
6	Feb 18	Spring Reading Week | Classes suspended		
7	Feb 25	Multiple Regression Analysis: Qualitative Information	W: Ch. 7 K: Ch. 15	**Quiz 2**
8	Mar 4	Heteroskedasticity, Specification and Data issues	W: Ch. 8, 9 K: Ch. 5 - 8, 21	**Due: A2**
9	Mar 11	Time Series Data	W: Ch. 10, 11 K: Ch. 19	**Quiz 3**
10	Mar 18	Serial Correlation and Heteroskedasticity in Time Series Regressions	W: Ch. 11, 12	**Due: A3**
11	Mar 25	Panel Data Methods	W: Ch. 13 K: Ch. 18	**Quiz 4**
12	Apr 1	Panel Data Methods	W: Ch. 14 K: Ch. 18	
13	Apr 8	If time permits, IVs, 2SLS, Simultaneous Equation Models and Limited Dependent Variable Models	W: Ch. 15 - 17 K: Ch. 16	**Quiz 5** **Due: A4 (Apr 12)**

W refers to Wooldridge (2019) and K refers to Kennedy (2008).
[1] This schedule is tentative and subject to change. See the course website for additional readings and updates.
* Assigned for self-study.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for 2020-2021

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities: Students should be familiar with their "Academic Rights and Responsibilities" as outlined here in the Western Academic Calendar. Claiming that "you didn't know what to do" is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Guidelines and Policies for Students are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca. Undergraduate information for the Faculty of Social Science can be found at: https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html and for the Department of Economics at: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html.

Rules of Conduct for Examinations: Students are expected to know the university's Rules of Conduct for Examinations, available here.

Cheating and Academic Offences: Students are responsible for understanding what it means to "cheat." The Department of Economics treats cheating and other academic offences very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offence. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Ideas/passages taken from another author must be referenced with footnotes or citations and acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate. Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3. See Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students here in the Western Academic Calendar.

Academic Appeals: Students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section here in the Western Academic Calendar. Please note the relevant deadlines.

Department Appeals Procedures: The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may submit a written appeal to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. Information on the Department of Economics' appeals procedure and the appeals form are available here.

Systematic Adjustments: Systematic adjustments of class grade distributions (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses.   The systematic adjustment of a class grade distribution is **not** grounds for an appeal.

Add/drop deadlines:

Deadline to add a second term half course:	**Tuesday January 19, 2021**
Deadline to drop a second term half course:	**Sunday March 14, 2021**

Oversleeping or Misreading the Exam Schedule: Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading the exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to all exams in the Department of Economics.

End of Term Travel: Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted: Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted.

Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), 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.

Academic Consideration for Missed Assessments/Exams due to Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to receive academic consideration if they self-report a missed assessment using the online portal, provided the following conditions are met: the assessment is missed due to an absence of no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted otherwise on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:
- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

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 required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:
Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

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.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.