

GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
POLSCI 2J03 (evening)
Winter 2022, Term 2

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Lecture and Tutorial Meetings:
See Course Format outlined on Page 4
for full details

Office: KTH 522
Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours
by Appointment on Zoom on
Wednesdays 4pm – 6pm

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Course Description

This course focuses on global political economy analyses of neoliberalism from the 1980s to the present. The objective is to understand the role of political institutions, legal systems, unions, corporations, political movements, and cultural production in the contemporary neoliberal global economy. We begin by defining key concepts, identifying key actors and institutions, and discussing the historical context that informs the making of the neoliberal global economy from the 1980s onwards. In the second half of the course each week we analyze a different dynamic in world politics in order to understand neoliberalism as a site of political struggle: global development, global health, global migration, resource extraction, climate action, “the right to the city”, and political movements and #activism. We analyze the role of state actors in international institutions as well as how communities self-identify priorities and take collective action in solidarity to make political claims through transnational political movements and cultural production.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Analyze how key concepts in Political Science are expressed and contested through neoliberalism: power, security, sovereignty, subjectivity, violence, community, commodification, dispossession, and agency
- Identify key theoretical approaches to analyzing how states and nations act in the context of neoliberalism: political economy analyses of wealth and labour, feminist political economy analyses of gender in the division of labour of production and social reproduction, and Black and Indigenous analyses of racialization and capitalism
- Understand the arguments and debates in foundational academic texts on globalization
- Through assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, and written assignments students will develop skills to read critically, analyze, and assert their own arguments about how globalization, states and nations shape one another and why this matters in our everyday lives

Required Materials and Texts

There is no textbook to purchase for this course. Links to all of the readings (e-journal articles, e-book chapters, films to stream online, etc.) are provided on the Avenue to Learn website eReserves link and links on the weekly modules.

Class Format

The most recent announcement from McMaster University regarding Winter 2022 courses is posted here: <https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/message-from-the-president-and-provost-regarding-the-winter-term/>. According to the university's current plan, our course POLSCI 2J03 will take place online until February 6, 2022 and the university is telling us to plan for a return to in person classes on campus beginning February 7, 2022. I share the concerns about the public health circumstances arising from the COVID Omicron variant and the uncertainty this creates for winter term course delivery. I assure you that if and when the university communicates any decisions to course instructors then I will immediately share this information as an Announcement on our Avenue to Learn course page.

This course involves two components: 1) the weekly lecture by the Course Instructor and 2) weekly tutorial group meetings led by the Teaching Assistants. Firstly, given the circumstances of the ongoing pandemic, asynchronous lecture videos with power point slides will be posted on Avenue in order to provide flexibility for student learning. For the first week of class an introduction video has already been posted on Avenue. At 7pm on Wednesday January 19, Wednesday January 26, and Wednesday February 2 an asynchronous lecture video with power point slides will be posted on the Avenue to Learn course website.

Secondly, you will meet with your Teaching Assistant and classmates for a weekly livestream synchronous online tutorial discussion. Your online tutorial meetings will take place on Wednesday January 19, Wednesday January 26, and Wednesday February 2. Your Teaching Assistant will send you an email in advance of the first meeting with the instructions on how to access the Zoom meeting room link for your online tutorial group.

According to the university's current plan, we are planning for a return to in person classes the week of February 7. The lectures are scheduled to take place at HH 109 from 7 – 9pm on Wednesdays beginning Wednesday February 9. If the Department of Political Science or McMaster University notifies course instructors of any further changes to scheduling plans and the location of course delivery then I will immediately post an Announcement on our Avenue to Learn course page.

Upon a return to learning on campus you would also be meeting weekly with your Teaching Assistant in person beginning on Wednesday February 9 at the locations listed below. You can contact your TA at the following email address:

Tutorial 1. Alicja Krubnik. 6:00 – 6:50pm. BSB B140. krubnia@mcmaster.ca
Tutorial 2. Shelby McPhee. 6:00 – 6:50pm. KTH B107. mcphes5@mcmaster.ca
Tutorial 3. Mackenzie Porter. 6:00 – 6:50pm. BSB 238. porteml@mcmaster.ca
Tutorial 4. Alicja Krubnik. 9:00 – 9:50pm. BSB B139. krubnia@mcmaster.ca
Tutorial 5. Shelby McPhee. 9:00 – 9:50pm. BSB B138. mcphes5@mcmaster.ca
Tutorial 6. Mackenzie Porter. 9:00 – 9:50pm. TSH B126. porteml@mcmaster.ca

Avenue to Learn:

Students are responsible for checking the course website regularly throughout the term as it will host:

- Announcements and updates from the course director
- Power point presentations
- Links to the assigned readings
- Links to upload your writing assignments

Email and Office Hours:

If you have a question about the course, your first step should be to read through the syllabus document and course announcements posted on Avenue to Learn. You should contact your Teaching Assistant if you have a question about course material (lectures, readings, etc.), assignment requirements or a grade you have received on an assignment. If you have a question about academic accommodations or another matter, email the course instructor with the email subject line “2J03 Global Political Economy”. Your question will receive an email response or if needed an appointment for office hours will be set up. Please note that emails will be answered during regular office hours on weekdays and emails sent 24 hours before an assignment deadline may not be answered in time.

Course Evaluation – Overview

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Tutorial participation	Weekly	20%
Short Essay	February 16, 2022 at 7pm	20%
Research Essay	March 23, 2022 at 7pm	30%
Final Exam	Written during exam period	30%

Course Evaluation – Details

NOTE: All assignments should include a separate cover page with your name, student number, and assignment title as well as a separate page at the end for your bibliography. All assignments should be double-spaced and in 12 point font. You can work with MLA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style citation method. Whichever style you use it is essential to be consistent with that method throughout your paper, to include page number and author name information for all direct quotes and paraphrased ideas from sources, and to include a bibliography/works cited.

Tutorial Participation, every week (20%)

At the beginning of the term an Announcement will be posted on Avenue to Learn with more information about the start date for tutorial meetings and the names of Teaching Assistants assigned to the course. Tutorial participation will be evaluated based on how you contribute to the class discussion about the weekly readings, asking questions,

making connections between the readings and world events, and active listening to your classmates. To prepare for your participation, when you are doing the weekly readings before class you should be thinking about: what is the author's argument? What sources does the author draw on to support this argument (ie. historical events, theoretical concepts, technological developments, examining how an institution works)? Why does this matter to understand global political economy today? In order to work through these questions together it is essential for students to keep up with the readings each week and come to class prepared to contribute.

Short Essay due Tuesday February 16 at 7pm (20%)

Students will write a short reflection paper about "Chapter 3. Labour Regimes" in *Global Labour Studies* by Marcus Taylor and Sébastien Rioux (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018). This chapter is provided as a PDF on the Avenue to Learn course website. The purpose of the short reflection paper assignment is to demonstrate your knowledge of the chapter and your analysis of its significance for understanding global political economy. This is not an argumentative paper. In other words, you do not need a thesis statement for this paper. However it is essential to show your analysis of the significance of the authors' argument and the key concepts they use to support their argument.

Your paper will be evaluated based on how you respond to the following three questions: 1) What is the authors' argument? 2) How do the authors support their argument? 3) Why does this matter for understanding neoliberalism in contemporary global politics? Your short paper must be 6 pages double-spaced, which is approximately 1500 words. No additional research is required for this paper. All direct quotes and paraphrased ideas from Taylor and Rioux's chapter that you refer to in your writing must be cited in the text of your essay and in your bibliography.

Research Paper due Wednesday March 23 at 7pm (30%)

The research paper assignment requires students to apply their knowledge of course material to independent research and to make an argument with a clear thesis statement. This requires demonstrating an understanding of theories and case studies in course readings and lectures and also independently researching academic sources on the essay topic. A handout that outlines the essay topic choices and full details of the assignment requirements will be posted on Avenue to Learn on February 16 and discussed by your Teaching Assistant at your tutorial group meetings well before the deadline. The Research Essay should be eight pages double-spaced, which is approximately 2000 words. The essay topics require students to apply a political economy analysis to one of the weekly lecture/assigned reading topics in the second half of the course:

- global development
- global migration
- resource extraction
- climate change

Final Exam. Date to be scheduled during the exam period (30%)

The final exam will include two sections: short answers and essay responses. A study guide outlining all possible questions will be posted on Avenue to Learn on April 6. For the first section you will be required to identify the source of the short term (which reading or lecture it appeared in), define the concept, and discuss its significance for understanding global political economy. For the second section you will write two short essays of 500 words each. The study guide will include the full list of possible short terms that will appear on the final exam, a shorter list will appear on the exam itself, and you will have choice in selecting which short terms to write about. The study guide will include the list of possible essay questions, a shorter list will appear on the exam and you will have choice in selecting which two essay questions you will respond to.

Grading of the short essay, reading journal, research paper will take into account:

Criteria	80 – 100% A+, A, A- Excellent to Exceptional	70 – 79% B+, B, B- Good to Very Good	60 – 69% C+, C, C- Fairly Competent to Competent	50 – 59% D+, D, D- Marginally Passing to Passing
Communication Clarity, organization, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, citation of sources	Technically flawless Concise sentence structure and organization	Few technical errors Clear sentence structure and organization	Many technical errors Some sentence structure and organization is unclear	Significant technical errors throughout Unclear sentence structure and lack of overall organization
Analytical Skills Grasp of meaning and ability to concisely synthesize individual insights with the course readings	Original analysis of course material Author’s voice comes through clearly (research paper) Addresses all assignment requirements excellently	Demonstrates critical thinking skills applied to course material Addresses all assignment requirements with some errors	Descriptive rather than analytical writing Addresses most assignment requirements but with significant errors	No analysis or critical thinking skills demonstrated Substantial aspects of assignment requirements are not addressed
Application of Course Material Understanding of the significance of authors’ arguments, key	Exceptional application of concepts and case studies to demonstrate original insights	Definitions of concepts and descriptions of case studies in course material is evident	Attempts to link course material to case studies however analysis and critical	No demonstration of ability to apply course concepts and case studies

concepts and case studies presented in the assigned readings and research material	about their significance for understanding global political economy	however further analysis is needed to demonstrate understanding of the author's main argument and/or demonstrate significance for understanding global political economy	thinking are not demonstrated	to other situations
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Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Jan 12) Intro

Introduction to the course

- There is no assigned reading for this week
- Read the syllabus and familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn course page, including the eReserves link where the weekly assigned readings are posted
- View the introduction video posted on Avenue to Learn

Week 2 (Jan 19) Defining Key Concepts

Defining Key Concepts: Sovereignty, Labour, Capital

- Stuart Elden. 2008. "Why is the World Divided Territorially?" In *Global Politics: A New Introduction*, editors Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, 192 – 216. New York: Routledge.
- Marcus Taylor and Sébastien Rioux. 2018. "Introduction: Thinking Global Labour Studies." In *Global Labour Studies*, 1 – 12. Cambridge, MA: Polity, 2018.

Week 3 (Jan 26) Neoliberalism

Neoliberalism: The 1980s to the Present

- Manfred B. Steger. 2003. "The Economic Dimensions of Globalization." In *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*, 58 – 76. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Geeta Chowdhry and Sheila Nair. 2002. "Introduction: Power in a Postcolonial World: Race, Gender, and Class in International Relations." In *Power, Postcolonialism and International Relations*, editors Geeta Chowdhry and Sheila Nair, 1 – 28. New York: Routledge.

Week 4 (Feb 2) Feminist Political Economy

Feminist Political Economy Theories of Production and Social Reproduction

- Nancy Fraser. "After the Family Wage: A Postindustrial Thought Experiment" in *Fortunes of Feminism: From State-Managed Capitalism to Neoliberal Crisis*. New York: Verso Books, 2013.
- Leah F. Vosko and Lisa F. Clark. "Chapter 2. Canada: Gendered Precariousness and Social Reproduction" in *Gender and the Contours of Precarious*

Employment. Leah F. Vosko, Martha MacDonald, and Iain Campbell, Editors. New York: Routledge, 2009. Pages 26 – 42.

Week 5 (Feb 9) UN and the Future of GP

The United Nations and the Future of Global Politics

- Makere Stewart-Harawira. 2005. "Chapter 3. Shaping the Liberal International Order" in *The New Imperial Order: Indigenous Responses to Globalization*, 88-109. New York: Zed Books.
- Sankaran Krishna. 2008. "Chapter 2. Independence or Neocolonialism? Third-World Development in the Twentieth Century." In *Globalization & Postcolonialism: Hegemony and Resistance in the Twenty-First Century*, 30 – 53. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Week 6 (Feb 16) Global Development and Capital

Global Development and Capital

- Arturo Escobar. 2012. "Chapter 2. The Problematization of Poverty: The Tale of Three Worlds and Development." In *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World (Second Edition)*, 21 – 54. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.
- Jennifer A. Elliot. 2006. "Chapter 1. What is Sustainable Development?" In *An Introduction to Sustainable Development (Third Edition)*, 7 – 42. New York: Routledge.

Week 7 (Feb 23) Mid-term recess, NO CLASS

Winter Term Break

Week 8 (Mar 2) Global Migration and Labour

Global Migration and Labour

- E.C. Osondu. "Waiting." *Guernica: A Magazine of Art & Politics*. 2008. [note: this is a short story work of fiction].
- Lloyd Axworthy. "Introduction." In *Human Security and the New Diplomacy: Protecting People, Promoting Peace*, edited by Rob McRae and Don Hubert, 3 – 13. McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal.
- Tanya Aberman. 2014. "Gendered Perspectives on Refugee Determination in Canada." *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees/Revue canadienne sur les réfugiés* 30, no. 2: 57 – 66.

Week 9 (Mar 9) Global Health

Global Health

- Stromae. 2021. "Santé (Official Music Video)". YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3QS83ubhHE>

- World Health Organization. 2021. “World Health Statistics 2021: A Visual Summary”. <https://www.who.int/data/stories/world-health-statistics-2021-a-visual-summary>.
- Matthew Sparke. 2016. “Chapter 20. Health and the embodiment of neoliberalism: Pathologies of Political Economy from Climate change and Austerity to Personal Responsibility.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Neoliberalism*, 293 – 305. New York: Routledge.
- Sophie Harman and Simon Rushton. 2013. “Analyzing Leadership in Global Health Governance.” *Global Health Governance* 2, no. 1: 1 – 19.

**Week 10 (Mar 16) Climate Action & Transnational
Climate Action and Transnational Political Movements**

- Thomas R. Berger. 1978. “The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry.” *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 16, no. 3: 639 – 647.
- Rob Nixon. 2011. “Chapter 5. Unimagined Communities: Megadams, Monumental Modernity, and Developmental Refugees” in *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, 150 - 174. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Isabel Altamirano-Jiménez, Isabel. 2014. “Nunavut: Arctic Homeland and Frontier.” In *Indigenous Encounters with Neoliberalism: Place, Women and the Environment in Canada and Mexico*, 89 – 120. Vancouver: UBC Press.

**Week 11 (Mar 23) “The Right to the City”
“The Right to the City”**

- David Harvey. 2008. “The Right to the City” in *New Left Review*. 53: 23 – 40.
- Jacqueline Kennelly and Paul Watt. “Sanitizing Public Space in Olympic Host Cities: The Spatial Experience of Marginalized Youth in 2010 Vancouver and 2012 London”. *Sociology*. 45, no. 5: 765 – 781.
- DemocracyNow! May 27, 2021. “No Tokyo Olympics: As COVID Spikes in Japan, Calls Grow to Cancel Games. IOC Refuses. Who Profits?” The video and transcript of the conversation are available here: https://www.democracynow.org/2021/5/27/cancel_tokyo_olympics

Week 12 (Mar 30) Independent Study Week

**Week 13 (Apr 6) Final Exam Review
Final Exam Review**

- Study guide posted on course website

Course Policies

Email and Office Hours

If you have a question about the course, your first step should be to read through the syllabus document and course announcements posted on Avenue to Learn. You should contact your Teaching Assistant if you have a question about course material (lectures, readings, etc.), assignment requirements or a grade you have received on an assignment. If you have a question about your Letter of Accommodations or another matter, email the course instructor with the email subject line “2J03 Global Political Economy”. Your question will receive an email response or if needed an appointment for office hours will be set up. Please note that emails will be answered during regular office hours on weekdays and emails sent 24 hours before an assignment deadline may not be answered in time.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Expected Time Commitments

This university class is based on the model of 3 hours of class/tutorial time per week, plus 3-6 hours of unscheduled study and review work per week. In our online learning environment, the 3 hours of class/tutorial time will consist of asynchronous recorded video lectures and synchronous online tutorial group discussions. Further, students should budget approximately 6-9 hours per week for keeping up with course content, allowing for modest peaks during assignment and midterm season. If you find yourself unable to work on this course for a period of a full week or more, please contact the instructor and/or your academic advisor.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on

online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Courses With An On-Line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used.

Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are to be submitted on the Avenue to Learn course website Turnitin applications and will be graded by the course teaching assistants. Assignments that are emailed to the instructor will not be accepted, unless specific accommodation arrangements have been made in advance. When you meet for your first tutorial group discussion your teaching assistant will let you know how they will return your assignment grades and feedback notes to you.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must notify their teaching assistant at least two weeks before the deadline to make arrangements for how the assignment will be submitted electronically to the teaching assistant. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more information please refer to the Turnitin.com Policy.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details

about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Grades

All assignment grades and final grades are unofficial until the final course grades are released by the Office of the Registrar.

Students who wish to request a reconsideration of their grade on an assignment must first talk with their Teaching Assistant over email or during office hours to discuss and clarify why the TA has assigned this grade. After this discussion has taken place, if a student still disagrees with the assigned grade, the student may email the Course Instructor to request a regrading of the assignment.

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the dates and times outlined in this document. The penalty for late assignment submission is 3% per day including weekend days. No written assignments will be accepted ten days after the deadline, except in cases of accommodation.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence or missed work for medical or other reasons students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work". There are two aspects to the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) process to request an extension on coursework. If circumstances allow for it then the MSAF self-reporting tool on Mosaic should be used (for example if the assignment is worth less than 25% and submission of the MSAF is within 3 days of the assignment due date). Otherwise, if the circumstances meet the MSAF Exception Checklist (for example if the assignment is worth 25% or more of the

final grade, etc.) then students need to contact their faculty office to provide the documentation to support their request for relief for missed work. After the MSAF is submitted then email to course instructor to request consideration for an extension on the assignment deadline. <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/absence-form>

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.