

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**GEOGRAPHY 2430A: PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**FALL 2013**

**Instructor:** Dr M Buzzelli

**Office:** Rm 2429 SSC

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10am-12 noon.

**Teaching Assistants:** Emily Eyles, Andrea Rishworth

**Class Times:** Mondays: 10:30 am – 12:20 pm, Lecture Room: SSC-2024

**Tutorial Times:** Wednesdays: 11:30-12:30 PM, UCC-54B; 12:30-1:30 PM, SSC 3022; 1:30-2:30 PM, UC 220

Teaching Assistants: TBA

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to current issues in public health and the environment. Theory, method and case study discussions focus on the important role of geography in understanding and explaining patterns of diseases, health and health care in communities, regions and nations.

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- (1) identify and define the main geographical concepts related to the study of human health;
- (2) select the appropriate concepts and methodologies for the study of the geography of health;
- (3) communicate your ideas clearly and concisely in both verbal and written form.

**Prerequisite:** 1.0 course from Geography 1100, 1300A/B, 1400F/G, 1500F/G, 2131A/B, 2153A/B (taken after September 2012), or the former Geography 020E; Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B; or the former Health Sciences 1000; Sociology 1020, 1021E or enrollment in the Major in Ecosystem Health, or permission of the instructor..

**Evaluation (assignments issued separately):**

- Best 2 of 3 short policy briefings, 20% each/40% total
- Mid-term test, 25%
- Final take home assignment, 30%
- Tutorial attendance/participation, 5%
- Late assignments: Deducted 10% per day

**Reading Material**

Required: Geographies of Health – An Introduction, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., by Anthony Gatrell and Susan Elliott [available at the Western bookstore]

In addition to the course text you will be asked to read various articles distributed in class/via the course web site/Sakai.

- Check the lecture schedule for readings to be read prior to each class (i.e., the readings are the basis for lecture and tutorial discussion)

**Course policies**

**Academic dishonesty:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). For UWO Policy on **Accommodation for**

**Medical Illness:** [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

**Mental Health Website:** If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health. Other policies:

1. Retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and graded assignments.
2. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments should discuss their commitments with the instructor.
3. Mobile telephones and any similar devices should be switched off during class. If you bring one to class, be sure to turn it off or you will be asked to leave. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.
4. Email within OWL, and/or office hours, are the only ways to contact your instructor/TAs.

<b>Lecture Schedule</b>				
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	<b>09 Sept</b>	Course introduction; History/concepts of (health) geography	Chapter 1	
2	<b>16 Sept</b>	Theoretical approaches	Chap. 2	Assignment #1 issued
3	<b>23 Sept</b>	Epidemiology: understanding the literature	Oleckno, 2002	Library session
4	<b>30 Sept</b>	Health research methods	Chap. 3	
5	<b>07 Oct</b>	Environmental health and disease ecology	Meade and Earickson, 2000; Chapters 7-9	Assignment #2 issued
6	<b>14 Oct</b>	Thanksgiving Holiday - No class		
7	<b>21 Oct</b>	Mid-term test, in class		
8	<b>28 Oct</b>	Health inequalities	Chap. 4	
9	<b>04 Nov</b>	Health inequalities, cont'd		Assignment #3 issued
10	<b>11 Nov</b>	Housing and health	Howden-Chapman, 2004	
11	<b>18 Nov</b>	Urban health	Galea and Vlahov, 2005	
12	<b>25 Nov</b>	Knowledge translation and health care	Chap. 5	
13	<b>02 Dec</b>	Course review		Final assignment

<b>Tutorial Schedule</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	<b>11 Sep</b>	No tutorial
2	<b>18 Sep</b>	Is there a role for social theory in health research?
3	<b>25 Sep</b>	Health questionnaire design
4	<b>02 Oct</b>	Methods debate
5	<b>09 Oct</b>	Assignment time/open office hours
6	<b>16 Oct</b>	Remedial help/test review time/office hours
7	<b>23 Oct</b>	No tutorial
8	<b>30 Oct</b>	Infectious disease. The next pandemic
9	<b>6 Nov</b>	Can policy address health inequalities? If so how?
10	<b>13 Nov</b>	Assignment time/office hours
11	<b>20 Nov</b>	Why are some cities sick and others not?
12	<b>27 Nov</b>	Assignment time/Remedial help
13	<b>04 Dec</b>	No tutorial/open office hours