

COURSE OUTLINE
GEOGRAPHY 2430A: Public Health & Environment
FALL 2014

Instructor: Tor Oiamo (thoiamo@uwo.ca)
Office: Room: 2244 SSC (Social Sciences Centre)
Office Hours: Mondays 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm or by appointment
Teaching Assistants: Frederick Armah (farmah@uwo.ca) (Office hours/location TBA)
Sarah Mason (smason27@uwo.ca) (Office hours/location TBA)

Lecture Time: Mondays 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Lecture Room: NS-7 (Natural Sciences Centre)
Tutorial Times: Section 002 – Wednesdays 11:30-12:30 PM, SSC-3026
Section 003 – Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 PM, SSC-3010
Section 004 – Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 PM, UC-220 (University College)

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. The linkages between population, environment and health will also be introduced.

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 enrolment in the Major in Ecosystem Health or in any of the Global Development Studies modules, or permission of the instructor.

Evaluation (assignments issued separately):

- Assignment 1 15% (10%/day late penalty)
- Assignment 2 15% (10%/day late penalty)
- Mid-term test 20% (1/4 multiple choice and 3/4 short answer and essay questions)
- Final Exam 40% (1/4 multiple choice and 3/4 short answer and essay questions)
- Participation: 10% (Attendance and engagement during tutorials)

Course Materials (required):

Geographies of Health – An Introduction, 2nd 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 via WebCT. 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

- Email and/or office hours, are the best ways to contact your instructor and/TAs.
- Retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and graded assignments.
- 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.

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:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Accommodation for Medical Illness

UWO Policy:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Non-Medical Accommodation

Students with conflicts during tutorials or exams due to varsity athletics, family obligations or other commitments should discuss these with the instructor or TAs prior to absences.

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western. 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 Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 or ssd@uwo.ca, or email accessibility-geography@uwo.ca for any specific question regarding an accommodation. You can also visit <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/> for further details.

Lecture Schedule				
Week	Date	Lecture topic	Readings	Notes
1	8 Sep	Introduction: History and concepts of (health) geography	Chapter 1	
2	15 Sep	Theoretical approaches	Chapter 2	
3	22 Sep	Epidemiology: understanding the literature	Oleckno, 2002	
4	29 Sep	Health research methods	Chapter 3	Assign. #1 issued
5	6 Oct	Mid-term test (in class)		
6	13 Oct	Thanksgiving – No class		
7	20 Oct	Environmental health	Chapter 7,8;	
8	27 Oct	Disease ecology	Chapter 9; Meade and Earickson, 2000	
9	3 Nov	Health inequalities	Chapter 4	Assign. #2 issued
10	10 Nov	Housing and health	Howden-Chapman,2004	
11	17 Nov	Urban health	Galea and Vlahov,2005	
12	24 Nov	Knowledge translation and health care	Chapter 5	
13	01 Dec	Course review		

Tutorial Schedule		
Week	Date	Topic
1	10 Sep	No tutorial
2	17 Sep	Social theory in health research
3	24 Sep	Health geography study design
4	1 Oct	Remedial help/test review
5	8 Oct	Assignment #1 discussion
6	15 Oct	Assignment #1 discussion
7	22 Oct	Assignment 1 Due
8	29 Oct	Infectious disease
9	5 Nov	Can policy address health inequalities?
10	12 Nov	Residential health risks
11	19 Nov	Urban health issues in Canada
12	26 Nov	Assignment #2 discussion
13	3 Dec	Remedial help; Assignment #2 Due