

Western University
GEOGRAPHY 2430A: Public Health & Environment
Course Outline
Fall 2015

Instructor: Tor H. Oiamo, PhD (thoiamo@uwo.ca)
Office: Room: 2244 SSC (Social Sciences Centre)
Office Hours: Mondays 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm or by appointment
Teaching Assistants: Suzanne Tillman (stillma@uwo.ca) (Office hours/location TBA)
Hanna Woods (hwoods2@uwo.ca) (Office hours/location TBA)

Lectures: Mondays 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, TC-141 (Talbot College)
Tutorials: Section 002 – Wednesdays 11:30-12:30 PM, TC-201
Section 003 – Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 PM, SSC-3014

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.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Materials (required):

- *Geographies of Health – An Introduction, 3rd ed.*, by Anthony Gatrell and Susan Elliott
- [Available at the Western bookstore].
- Supplemental readings will be distributed via OWL. 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).

Evaluation (assignments issued separately):

- Mid-term test 25% (mixed format)
- Final Exam 40% (mixed format)
- Participation: 10% (Attendance and engagement during lectures and tutorials)
- Assignment 1 10%
- Assignment 2 15%

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture topic	Readings
1	14 Sep	Introduction and overview	Chapter 1
2	21 Sep	Theoretical approaches	Chapter 2
3	28 Sep	Health research methods I	Oleckno; Chapter 3, pg. 65-78
4	5 Oct	Health research methods II	Chapter 3, pg. 78-96; Chapter 4
5	12 Oct	Thanksgiving – No class	
6	19 Oct	Health inequalities I	Chapter 5
7	26 Oct	Mid-term test (in class)	
8	2 Nov	Health inequalities II	Chapter 6, pg. 157-170; Galea and Vlahov
9	9 Nov	Housing and urban systems	Howden-Chapman; See OWL
10	16 Nov	Environmental exposures	Chapter 11
11	23 Nov	Disease ecology I	Meade and Earickson; Chapter 12, pg. 349-358
12	30 Nov	Disease ecology II	Chapter 12, pg. 358-370; Chapter 13
13	7 Dec	Health care	Chapter 6, pg. 170-178; Chapters 7-8

Tutorial Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Notes
1	16 Sep	Five Case Studies	
2	23 Sep	Social theory in health research	
3	30 Sep	Health geography study design	Assignment #1 issued
4	7 Oct	Assignment #1 group work	
5	14 Oct	Assignment #1 group work	
6	21 Oct	Globalization and health	Assignment #1 Due
7	28 Oct	No tutorial	
8	4 Nov	Your neighbourhood, your health?	Assignment #2 issued
9	11 Nov	Environmental policy and health	
10	18 Nov	Assignment #2 research	
11	25 Nov	Environmental change in Canada	
12	2 Dec	Health and development	Assignment #2 Due
13	9 Dec	Exam review	

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. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.
- Assignments submitted beyond due date without accommodation will be assigned a penalty of 10% per day

Personal Response Systems

Personal response systems (“virtual clickers”) will be used in the course. The system will be used for participation and as an instructional aid during lectures. Responses will not be used for evaluation. However, clicker participation will be used towards determining the participation grade for the course. Your privacy will be protected and data gathered from the system will not be utilized for research purposes. The virtual clicker system can be accessed from a computer or any handheld device through your internet browser. The system requires registration through UWO’s ResponseWare portal: <https://virtualclickers.uwo.ca/>
The session ID will be provided in class. Note that you must enter your name during the registration and login for participation grades.

Academic Offenses

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. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Accommodation for Medical Illness

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
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 documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

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.

Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

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 519-661-2111 x82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>