

GEOG 2430A – Public Health and Environment Course Outline: Section 001- Fall 2023

This course is taught in-person

1. Course Information

Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 7	October 30 – Nov 5	December 8	December 9	December 10-22

September 15, 2023: Last day to add a first-term half course

October 9, 2023: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 13, 2023: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office/ Office Hours
Isaac Luginaa	iluginaa@uwo.ca	SSC 1409: Mondays, 1-3 pm by EMAIL/appointment

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information/Email	Office/Office Hours
Clara Lewis	Clewis87@uwo.ca	TBA
Sulemana Saaka	ssulem@uwo.ca	TBA

2. Calendar Description

2.1. Course Description

This course introduces students to current issues in health geography. Through examples, students will learn the important role of geography in disease ecology and its role in explaining patterns of infectious, communicable, chronic diseases and mental health. The linkages between population, environment and health will also be introduced.

2 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): N/A

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 course from Geography 1100, Geography 1200A/B, Geography 1300A/B, Geography 1400F/G, Geography 1500F/G, Geography 2131A/B, Geography 2132A/B, Geography 2133A/B, Geography 2142A/B, Geography 2152F/G, Geography 2153A/B, Environmental Science 1021F/G; Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B; Sociology 1020, Sociology 1021E, Sociology 1025A/B, Sociology 1026F/G, Sociology 1027A/B or enrolment in the Major in Ecosystem Health or in any of the Global Development Studies modules, or permission of the instructor.

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

2.2. Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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.”

3. Textbook

Required text: Geographies of Health – An Introduction, by Anthony Gatrell and Susan Elliott (available at the Western bookstore); 3rd Ed.; ISBN: 978-0-470-67287-7

In addition to the course text you will be asked to read various articles distributed in class/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).

4. Course Objectives and Format

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

- (1) Identify and define the main geographical concepts related to the study of environment and 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

Course Structure

- History/concepts of (health) geography
- Health Transition
- Epidemiology: understanding the literature
- Health research methods
- Indigenous health
- Urban health
- People on the Move –Migration and Health
- Environmental Pollution and Health
- Health Impacts Environmental Global Climate Change
- Emerging, Re-emerging, and Neglected Infectious Diseases
- Knowledge translation and health care

Attendance is required

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Develop knowledge and critical understanding of the fundamental characteristics, processes, temporal changes and landscapes of social and biophysical systems and their interactions.
- ✓ Demonstrate informed awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different places and understanding of the processes that shape them spatially and over time.
- ✓ Combine breadth of knowledge of Geography with specialized understanding in selected sub-fields.
- ✓ Critically reflect on the scope and intellectual development of the discipline of Geography
- ✓ Collect, analyze and interpret geographical and geo-spatial data in relation to social and biophysical systems
- ✓ Describe, explain, analyze and interpret a range of geographical phenomena outside the classroom by engagement with people, places and environments
- ✓ Communicate geographic ideas and understanding effectively to a variety of audiences in writing, orally, and graphically
- ✓ Develop and demonstrate applied skills in geo-spatial data visualization, design and communication.

Geographical Skills

- ✓ Geographical data: statistical concepts, analysis and inference; quantitative and qualitative analysis; numerical and/or mathematical analysis; calculations; programming; problem solving.

Generic Skills

- ✓ Literature and secondary data sources: information search and retrieval and synthesis of information sources and literature, annotated bibliographies.
- ✓ Critical and reflective reading, listening, thinking.
- ✓ Writing – education and practice in writing essays, reports, notebooks.

6. Course Content and Schedule

6.1. Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
1	Sept 11	History/concepts of (health) geography	Chapter 1
2	Sept 19	Geographical Perspectives	Chapter 2
3	Sept 25	Epidemiologic Designs/Health research methods	Oleckno, 2002 Chapter ¾; Assignment #1 issued
4	Oct 2	Health Transition	Martens, 2002
5	Oct 9	Thanksgiving Holiday – no class	
6	Oct 16	Mid-term test; In class	

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
7	Oct 23	Urban health	Galea and Vlahov, 2005
8	Oct 30	Reading Break	
9	Nov 6	People on the Move –Migration and Health	Chapter 10/ Assignment #2 issued
10	Nov 13	Indigenous Health	TBA
11	Nov 20	Environmental Pollution and Health	Chapters 12: 349-363
12	Nov 27	Health Impacts Environmental Global Climate Change	Chapters 12: 364-370
13	Dec 4	Emerging, Re-emerging, and Neglected Infectious Diseases	Chapter 13

6.2. Tutorial Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topic
1	Sep 11	Introduction - Lecture
2	Sep 13	Is there a role of “place” in health research
3	Sep 20	Methods debate
4	Sep 27	Assignment time
5	Oct 4	Gifts from the Elders - Movie
6	Oct 11	Assignment help
8	Oct 18	Why are some cities sick and other not?
9	Oct 25	Assignment 1 Due
10	Nov 1	Reading Break
11	Nov 8	Can policy address global environmental change issues? If so how? What is happening in Canada?
11	Nov 15	Environmental Pollution and Health
12	Nov 22	Assignment #2 help
13	Nov 29	How can we minimize the emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases?
14	Dec 6	Assignment #2 Due/ Course review/remedial help

Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using OWL “messages”
- For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use Microsoft Teams for discussions
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructors or teaching assistants

7. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule*
Assignment 1	15%	Due Oct 25
Assignment 2	15%	Due Dec 6
Midterm exams	25%	October 16 [†]
Participation	5%	-
Final exams	40%	TBA [‡]

*All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified. For late assignments 10% will be deducted per day

[†]Please see Mid-term exams make-up dates at the end of the course outline

[‡]Please see Final exams make-up dates at the end of the course outline

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10 %/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report
- A make-up test will be offered

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

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.

8. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities 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 Student Absence

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students](#)

[Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

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](#).

9. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. Otherwise, the instructor will assign a grade of zero.

The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

10. Use of Electronic Devices

During lectures and tutorials, be sure to turn off electronic devices or you will be asked to leave. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

11. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.



12. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

13. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

14. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

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 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

15. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

16. Support Services

Western's Support Services
Student Development Centre

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

19. Important Dates

September 7:	Classes resume
September 15:	Last day to add a first term half course
October 9:	Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed
October 30-November 5:	Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)
November 13:	Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty
November 30:	Last day to drop a full course without penalty
December 8:	Classes end
December 9:	Study day
December 10-22:	Examination Period

Makeup Dates: TBA