

GEOG 3431B – GEOGRAPHY OF HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

Course Outline: Winter 2024

This course is taught in-person

1. Course Information

	Delivery Mode	Day/Time
Lecture	In-person	Wednesdays 10:30am-12:30pm
Lab	In-person	Thursdays, 12:30 – 1.30 pm

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 5



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 8	February 19-23	April 8	April 9 & 10	April 11-30

January 16, 2024: Last day to add a second-term half course

February 19, 2024: Family Day

March 7, 2024: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office	Office Hours
Isaac Luginaah	iluginaa@uwo.ca ; Phone: 519-661-2111 Ext - 86944	SSC 1409	Thursdays - 10.00-11.00 am or by appointment

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office	Office Hours
Satveer Dhillon	sdhill84@uwo.ca	SSC 1424	

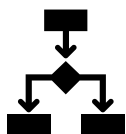
2. Calendar Description

2.1. Course Description

The aim of this course is to outline current theoretical and practice-based issues in the area of health and to understand the developing role geographers play in these areas. The course will focus on major themes in the geography of health and health care. It will introduce students to reading health research critically, and the changing concepts of health in the Canadian context. It will also explain and illustrate through case studies and examples, the geographical aspects chronic and mental health, health inequalities, health care provision and planning. Emphasis will be placed on the health of Canadians.

- 3 lecture hours, 0.5 course
- Prerequisite(s): Geography 2430A/B or a related 2000-level course in Health Sciences, Sociology or Psychology, 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/Reading Material

- Text - None
- Readings –Will be placed on the course OWL website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/>
- All online readings can be accessed through Western's Electronic journal sites.
- Please check the lecture schedule to find out what is to be read prior to each class (i.e., the readings are the basis for in-class discussion).

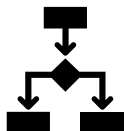
4. Course Objectives and Format

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

- (1) Critically appraise health research;
- (2) Describe the geographical aspect of the diffusion of disease;
- (3) Explain the sociocultural determinants of health in context;
- (4) Explain the challenges health care provision and health care planning in Canada.

Attendance is required

Missed work should be completed within 48 hours



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

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand how to read health research critically
- Describe the geographical aspects of disease diffusion.
- Know and understand the differences between the social science of health and the biomedical model of health
- Know and understand how the social context and other determinants affect health
- Understand the changing global context of public health.
- Know and understand the reasons for differences in health access and outcomes across social groups and classes.
- Understand the process of health care delivery and health care planning in Canada.
- Understand the changing and future directions of the geography of health.



6. Course Content and Schedule

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
1	Jan 10	Introduction/ Reading Health Research Critically	Gatrell & Elliott, 2014 Chapter 1
	Jan 11	Reading Health Research Critically	DCEBMU 1981; Frank et al., 1987
2	Jan 17	Approaches and Theories – Biomedical Disease Model	None; Release Assignment 1
	Jan 18	Approaches and Theories	Gatrell & Elliott, 2014 Chapter 2
3	Jan 24	Spatial Diffusion of Disease	Hagget, 1998 - Chapter 1 Movie: Infectious Diseases: More Mobility, Greater Danger
	Jan 25	Spatial Diffusion of Disease	Wallace and Wallace 1997
4	Jan 31	Spatial Diffusion of Disease	Movie: And the Band Played
	Feb 1		
5	Feb 7	Spatial Diffusion of Disease	None
	Feb 8		
6	Feb 14	Different/Changing Concepts of Health	Rootman & Raeburn 1994; White, 1981; Ottawa Charter 1986
	Feb 15	Assignment 1 Due	
7	Feb 21	-	Evans et al .1994 - Introduction; Movie: How Economic Inequality Harms Societies
	Feb 22	-	
8	Feb 28	Determinants of the Health of Populations	Release Assignment 2
	Feb 29	Mid Term Exams	
9	Mar 6	Gender and Health	Denton & Walters 1999; Movie: The secret to living longer may be your social life https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptIecdCZ3dg
	Mar 7		
10	Mar 13	Geography of Chronic Diseases	Soo et al., 2001
	Mar 14		
11	Mar 20	Geography of Mental Health	Giggs 1988; Holley 1998
	Mar 21		

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
12	Mar 27	Health Care System and Planning	Pamplalon et al. 1996; Movie: Canadian healthcare: Fact vs. fiction
	Mar 28		
13	Apr 3	Globalization and Health	Collins 2003
	Apr 4	Review, Assignment 2 Due	

Tutorial Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
1	Jan 10	See Lecture Schedule	Gatrell & Elliott, 2014 Chapter 1
	Jan 11	See Lecture Schedule	DCEBMU 1981
2	Jan 17	See Lecture Schedule	Frank et al., 1987; Release Assignment 1
	Jan 18	See Lecture Schedule	Gatrell & Elliott, 2014 Chapter 2
3	Jan 24	See Lecture Schedule	Hagget, 1998 - Chapter 1
	Jan 25	See Lecture Schedule	Wallace and Wallace 1997
4	Jan 31	See Lecture Schedule	Rootman & Raeburn 1994
	Feb 1	Spatial Diffusion of Disease	Help Stop the Next Pandemic https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNhiHf84P9c
5	Feb 7		
	Feb 8	Different/Changing Concepts of Health I	Rootman & Raeburn 1994
6	Feb 14		
	Feb 15	Assignment 1 Due Different/Changing Concepts of Health	Lalonde, 1974; Epp 1986: https://www.ted.com/talks/larry_brilliant_wants_to_stop_pandemics
7	Feb 21	-	
	Feb 22	-	
8	Feb 28	Release Assignment 2	Ben-Shlomo & Davey-Smith, 1997; Ross et al., 2004 Movie – "Unnatural Causes: Is Inequity Making Us Sick?"
	Feb 29	Mid Term Exams	
9	Mar 6		
	Mar 7	Determinants of the Health of Populations	
10	Mar 13		
	Mar 14	Geography of Chronic Diseases	Green et al., 2003, Oyana et al., 2004
11	Mar 20		
	Mar 21	Geography of Mental Health	Knowles, 2000
12	Mar 27		
	Mar 28	Health Care System and Planning	Rosenberg 1988: Movie: Canadian Health Care: A Monopoly on Lives
13	Apr 3		
	Apr 4	Review, Assignment 2 Due	

7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Course updates will be provided on the OWL announcements
- 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

8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Evaluation Components*	Percentage of Course Grade	Due Date
Assignment 1	15%	February 15 2024
Mid-term Exams	25%	February 29 2024
Assignment 2	15%	April 4, 2024
Lectures/Tutorials Participation	5%	-
Final Exams	40%	TBA

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

*For late assignments 10% will be deducted per day

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Attendance will taken at random during lectures and tutorials, and these will be used to calculating participation marks.



- 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:

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- 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 the class
- 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.

9. 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](#).

10. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office 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.

11. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

12. 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.



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.

17. Important Dates

Monday January 8:	Classes resume
Tuesday January 16:	Last day to add a second term half course
Monday February 19:	Family Day – Department Office Closed
February 17 to Feb 25:	Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)
Thursday March 7:	Last day to drop a second term half course without academic penalty
Friday March 29:	Good Friday – Department Office Closed
Monday April 8:	Classes end
April 9 and 10:	Study days
April 11-30:	Examination Period