

GEOG 3431B – GEOGRAPHY OF HEALTH & HEALTHCARE

Course Outline: Winter 2025

This course is taught in person

1. Course Information



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 6	February 17-23	April 4	April 5 & 6	April 7-30

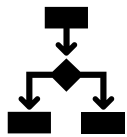
- January 14, 2025: Last day to add a second-term half-course
- February 17, 2025: Family Day
- March 31, 2025: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty



Delivery Mode	Days	Time	Location
In-person	Wednesday	10:30 am to 12:30 pm	SSC-3006
	Thursday	12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	

Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Evans Batung	ebatung@uwo.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thursdays (1:40 pm to 2:40 pm) ▪ Location (SSC 2223)

2. Calendar Description



This course aims 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 healthcare. The course will also introduce students to the critical reading of health research, identifying key literature, and changing concepts of health in the Canadian context. Using diverse modes of learning and media such as case studies, and contemporary and historical accounts of major health events, the course will also explain the geographical aspects of chronic and mental health, health inequalities, health care provision, and planning. Emphasis will be placed on the health of Canadians; broadly defined to accommodate the changing demographic and sociopolitical landscape.

- **Duration:** 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.*

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



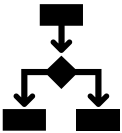
- **Text** – None
- **Readings** – Will be placed on the course portal on Brightspace (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home/70491>). All online readings can be accessed through Western’s Electronic journal sites.
- **PowerPoint slides** – The slides also provide an abundance of additional links to encourage you to dig deeper into contemporary topics or cases that may be of interest.
- Please check the lecture schedule to find out what is to be read before 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 of health care provision and health care planning in Canada.

- Attendance is required



All course material will be posted to the new OWL Brightspace learning environment: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace 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 and explain the basic physical and anthropogenic dynamics of climate change, and how climate change threatens the stability of life on Earth;
- be able to understand the deep inequalities associated with climate change with respect to past and present emissions and urgent mitigation and adaptation efforts;
- be capable of critically engaging with political debates, conflicts, and policy initiatives with respect to climate change;





- have a conceptual basis for further studies in climate change and geography more broadly;
- be inspired to think about the ethical dimensions of environmental change and take action, individually and as part of wider social movements.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	January 8	Course Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 1: Gatrell & Elliott (2014)
	9	Reading Health Research Critically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCEBMU (1981) ▪ Frank et al. (1987)
2	January 15	Approaches and Theories: <i>Biomedical Disease Model</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gatrell & Elliott, 2014 Chapter 2 (moved from row below)
	16	<i>Identifying Sources of Health Research</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hannah Snyder (2019)
3	January 22	Approaches and Theories: <i>Spatial Diffusion of Disease (SDD)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 1: Hagget (1998) ▪ Movie: <i>Infectious Diseases: More Mobility, Greater Danger</i>
	23	SDD continues <i>Assignment 1 Overview</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wallace and Wallace (1997)
4	January 29	SDD continues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Movie: <i>And the Band Played</i>
	30	Discussion: Handling the next pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TED Talk: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNhiHf84P9c)
5	February 5	SDD continues	NONE
	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Stop-Continue-Start survey</i> ▪ <i>Assignment 1 Overview</i> 	NONE
6	February 12	Different/Changing Concepts of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rootman & Raeburn (1994) ▪ White (1981) ▪ Ottawa Charter (1986)
	13	In-class: Assignment #1	N/A
February 17-21: Spring Reading Week			
7	February 26th	Determinants of the Health of Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Health Agency of Canada (2024) ▪ Canadian Index of Wellbeing
	27		N/A

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
		In-class: Midterm Test	
8	March 5	Gender and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Denton & Walters (1999) ▪ Movie: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptIecdCZ3dg
	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Discussion: Case study</i> ▪ <i>Assignment 2 Overview</i> 	TBD
9	March 12	Geography of Chronic Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soo et al. (2001) ▪ Green et al. (2003) ▪ Oyana et al. (2004)
	13	Guest Lecture <i>Assignment 2 Overview</i>	TBD
10	March 19	Geography of Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Giggs (1988) ▪ Holley (1998) ▪ Knowles (2000)
	20	In-class: Assignment #2	N/A
11	March 26	Health Care System and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pamplalon et al. (1996) ▪ Movie: Canadian healthcare: Fact vs. fiction
	27	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Movie: <i>Canadian Health Care: A Monopoly on Lives</i>; Rosenberg (1988)
12	March 31	Globalization and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collins (2003)
	April 4	Course Recap	NONE

7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- Some communications about the course will arrive through your university email, which will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is your responsibility to ensure that email received from the University at your UWO address is attended to promptly. 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
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so everyone can access answers to questions. The discussion forums will be monitored daily by the instructor.

8. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Assignment 1	In-class	15%	February 13th
Mid-term Exams	In-class	25%	February 27th
Assignment 2	In-class	15%	March 20th
Lectures participation	In-class	5%	Throughout semester
Final Exams	In-person	40%	TBA

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course. Students are also responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Attendance will be 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 the instructor.

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

Grades will not be adjusted based on needs. 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](#).

General Information about missed work:

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing coursework for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with the information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Course Assessments that Require Supporting Documentation

For this course, the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation:

- Mid-term test (February 27th)

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

10. Make-up Examinations

Make-ups 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. Use of Electronic Devices

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. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16.Important Dates

- Monday January 6: Classes resume
- Tuesday January 14: Last day to add a second term half course
- Monday February 17: Family Day – Department Office Closed
- February 17-23: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)
- Friday March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course
- Friday April 4: Classes end
- April 5 and 6: Study days
- April 7-30: Examination Period