

Western University  
School of Health Studies

**Health Sciences 3290B**  
**Special Topics in Health Promotion: Environmental Health**

Winter 2018 - Instructor: Dr. Denise Grafton

Lectures: Monday, 12:30pm-1:30pm & Wednesday, 1:30pm-3:30pm

Location: HSB-240

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Office Hours: By appointment

**Prerequisite Checking**

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. For further information regarding prerequisites or anti-requisites please visit [www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca).

Prerequisites: Minimum of 60% in each of Health Sciences 1001A/B and 1002A/B

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**Course Description:**

Health promotion has an important role to play in addressing the complex array of environmental threats that are affecting human health and the wellbeing of our planet. Starting from this insight, this course looks at the interface between the fields of environmental health and health promotion to explore the theory and practice of environmental health promotion in its current context. Howze et al. define environmental health promotion as “any planned process employing comprehensive health promotion approaches to assess, correct, control, and prevent those factors in the environment that can potentially harm the health and quality of life of present and future generations” (2004).

The course introduces students to key concepts and theories used in the practice of environmental health promotion. It explores contemporary strategies to address issues such as air pollution, water quality and scarcity, weak food systems, vector-borne illness, disaster preparedness, environmental injustice and climate change using the tools of health promotion. Given the globalized scope of the topic, cases are drawn from a variety of local, national and international settings. The intervention strategies studied utilize diverse forms of health promotion practice, including health communication and education, community capacity building, advocacy and policy making. The course employs a range of learning tools, including lectures, facilitated discussion and multimedia resources. Students will also have the opportunity to engage directly with expert practitioners in the field through a community-engaged learning project done in collaboration with environmental organizations in London. Health care systems have undergone profound change in the last decade due to changing demographics, funding constraints, new and emerging technologies and a significant rise in chronic diseases.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To understand key concepts and theories relevant to environmental health promotion.
2. To build students' knowledge around the use of diverse health promotion strategies (e.g. health education, community capacity building) to address environmental threats.
3. To learn about how environmental health interventions are designed, implemented and evaluated through participation in a community engaged learning project

### **Course Materials**

Materials for this course consist of weekly readings posted on OWL.

### **Class Schedule and Format:**

Classes will be a mixture of lecture, on-line discussion and guest speakers where appropriate. Students are responsible for assigned readings and should be prepared to discuss them in class. Attendance and participation in class is expected. Students are encouraged to be actively engaged in class discussions and group participation as undergraduates because the "real world" makes these demands on them routinely. Most weeks will have some classes devoted to a lecture and another to individual and/or group discussion. Students are encouraged to bring a computer/tablet to class because there will be information retrieval exercises during the class time.

### **Course Materials:**

There is no required textbook for this course. However, there will be some **mandatory readings/articles** posted on OWL. A draft reading list will be available at the start of the course, and will be updated regularly on OWL. In general, you can expect 2-3 readings, and/or additional website/links to explore each week.

### **Evaluation:**

Mid-term Examination (in class) – 20%

Online Tutorial (Weekly topic discussions in OWL) – 15%

Community Engaged Learning Project – 35%: The 35% portion of the grade assessment assigned for this part of the course will be further broken down into smaller sub-components. Please see OWL for further information.

Final Exam – 30%. Date & time will be determined by the Registrar's office.

### **Important Dates:**

First day of class: January 8, 2018

Winter Reading week: February 19-23, 2018

Mid-term Examination: February 14, 2018

#### **a) Mid-term examination (20%) – Wednesday, February 14, 2018**

There will be a mid-term examination in class on Wednesday, February 14, lasting 100 minutes & covering all material discussed in the course (including online material provided) up to and including February 12. The format of the examination will be a combination of multiple choice questions, short written answers and application questions.

In the event that the mid-term exam is missed for medical reasons or extenuating circumstances, appropriate supporting documentation MUST BE provided. If appropriate documentation is provided, a makeup examination will be scheduled within one week of the scheduled exam.

**b) Community Engaged Learning (CEL) Project (35% - Groups of approximately 5 students)**

The purpose of this assignment is to provide students with the opportunity to partner directly with London-based organizations in order to apply their learning related to environmental health promotion. Students will work in teams and will be linked directly to partners to produce one agreed upon deliverable (e.g. a Public Service Announcement, a grant application, etc.). Teams will be expected to share their experience and learning with the rest of the class through a group presentation near the end of the term. Some time for groups to meet and work on their projects will be provided in class throughout the semester. The 35% portion of the grade assessment assigned for this part of the course will be further broken down into smaller sub-components. A more detailed description will be explained in class and will also be available in the Assignments folder on OWL in early January.

Students who do not wish to participate in the CEL project will be offered an alternate individual or group assignment.

**c) Final Exam (30%) – TBA Scheduled by Registrar**

There will be a final examination lasting a maximum of two hours covering all material discussed in the course. The format of the examination will be a combination of multiple choice questions and short written answers. The final exam date will be set by the university in the final exam period in April 2018. The final exam will cover material from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the course – it is NOT cumulative.

**Grading scheme:**

Below you will find the university-wide scale that has been approved by the Western University Senate. Marks will not be rounded.

**A+** 90-100 Exceptional

**A** 80-89 Superior work, 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

**Policies:**

*Late assignments*

This class is evaluated primarily through examinations, which must not be missed unless in the case of a medical condition, family emergency, or other unforeseen circumstances. A note from your Physician indicating the nature of your condition must be submitted to the School of Health Studies Main Office, and only upon receipt of such a letter will a new examination be scheduled. Visit Western's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> for further details. With respect to the written assignments, **late assignments will not be accepted** past the due

dates without a Doctor's note. If the student presents a Doctor's note the extended deadline will be 1 week after original due date. Late assignments without documentation will be accepted, however a late penalty will be applied: 5% for the first day and 10% for every subsequent day; assignments will not be accepted one week after the due date.

### *Electronic devices*

Cellular phones must be on silent and put away during lectures and tutorials. Laptop computers will only be allowed to be open during lectures if you are making notes regarding lecture materials. If personal devices are clearly being used for non-class purposes, students will be asked to stop this disrespectful behaviour or leave the class. Electronic devices of any type **WILL NOT** be allowed during examinations.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>.

### **English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades**

Visit the website [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/english.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf)

### **Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences**

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her 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 his/her academic responsibilities. Students are expected to act in a timely manner when seeking and arranging accommodations.

Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the Dean's Office of the student's Faculty of registration (e.g., to the Academic Counselling Office of the student's home Faculty) indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Counsellors for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. These documents will be

retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Academic Counselling/Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s).

For a complete overview of the Policy on Accommodation for Illness, please see:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

### **Scholastic Offences**

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 website:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Additionally,

1. 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>).
2. 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.

### **Support Services**

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>
2. Student Health – <http://www.uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

### **Rounding of Grades (for example, bumping a 79 to 80%)**

This is a practice some students request. This practice will not occur here. Assignments have been carefully designed to be clear and fair. Please do not ask the Course Instructor or Teaching Assistants to do this for you.