

Western University
Health Sciences
HS1002B: Social Determinants of Health
Course Outline: Winter, 2020

Instructor:

Jacqueline Potvin

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Office Hours: TBA

Class Times & Location:

Lectures: Tues 11:30-12:20 (NS-145) & Thurs 8:30-10:30 (NCB-101)

Tutorials: Tues 12:30-1:30 (NS-145)

Course Description

This course introduces students to key social determinants of health and orients students to viewing health in relation to social factors and social justice. Students will be introduced to basic terms, concepts, and measurements related to health, public health population health and health inequalities.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Differentiate between personal and social determinants of health;
- Recognize and describe the impacts of key social determinants of health in Canadian and global contexts
- Define and apply key concepts used in the study of population health and social determinants of health
- Understand the importance of the 'social determinants of health' lens in analyzing and seeking to reduce suffering, disease, inequalities in health and care
- Understand the role of social, political and ideological contexts in distributing and addressing the impacts of social determinants of health
- Better grasp what is involved in developing sustainable and culturally sensitive interventions for improved health and health care

Course Material and Required Readings:

Course Textbook: Germov and Hornosty (2017) *Second Opinion: An Introduction to Health Sociology*. Oxford University Press.

This course includes weekly readings, which students are expected to come to class having read. Readings will come from the course textbook, or will be posted to the course webpage on OWL. The course textbook is will be available for purchase at the campus bookstore.

Announcements and updates to course material will be posted to OWL. Please check the course website regularly to ensure you stay on up to date and on track.

If you require this information in an alternative/accessible format, please contact the School of Health Studies Administrator

Course Schedule:

(Please Note: This schedule is tentative, and is subject to change prior to the beginning of the course)

Week 1:

Tuesday, January 7th: Introduction to the Course

Thursday, January 9th: What are Social Determinants of Health?

Week 2:

Tuesday, January 14th: Methods and Frameworks for Studying Social Determinants of Health

Thursday, January 16th: Social Determinants in Health Policy and Practice

Week 3:

Tuesday, January 21st: Issues of Access

Thursday, January 23rd: Global Perspectives on Social Determinants of Health

Week 4:

Tuesday, January 28th: Income and Class

Thursday, January 30th: Income and Class Continued

Week 5:

Tuesday, February 4th: Midterm Review

Thursday, February 6th: Midterm #1

Week 6:

Tuesday, February 11th: Working Conditions

Thursday, February 13th: Working Conditions Case Study: Film Screening of 'Maquilopolis'

READING WEEK

Week 7:

Tuesday, February 25th: Gender and Sexuality

Thursday, February 27th: Gender and Sexuality Cont'd Case Study: Sex Education

Week 8:

Tuesday, March 3rd: Racism and Social Exclusion

Thursday, March 5th: Racism and Social Exclusion Cont'd & Case Study: Maternal Health

Week 9:

Tuesday, March 10th: Midterm Review

Thursday, March 12th: Midterm #2

Week 10:

Tuesday, March 17th: Colonialism as Social Determinant of Indigenous People's Health

Thursday, March 19th: Colonialism Cont'd & Case Study: Health in Northern Communities

Week 11:

Tuesday, March 24th: Environmental Degradation and Health

Thursday, March 26th: Environmental Degradation Cont'd and Case Study: Chemical Valley

Week 12:

Tuesday, March 31st: Course Conclusions – Policy, Practice and Change

Thursday, April 3rd: Conclusions and Exam Review

Course Evaluations

Student progress in the course will be evaluated through 3 exams.

Midterm Exam #1: 30% February 6th

Midterm Exam #2: 35% March 12th

Final Exam: 35% During Final Exam Period

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

The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work that 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

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 68-72%. In the event that the course average falls outside this range, a constant may be added (or subtracted) from each student's grade, by the instructor, to bring the class average in line with school policy.

Statement on Academic Consideration

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury. Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfil their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- i. Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- ii. For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- iii. For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;
- Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic

requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;
- c. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- d. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- e. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations (i.e., “bellringers”);
- f. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;
- g. Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed

Statement on the Use of Electronic Devices

During Exams: Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

During Lectures and Tutorials: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.**

Statement on 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, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Statement on Health and Wellness

As part of a successful undergraduate experience at Western, we encourage you to make your health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre as part of their registration fees. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page (<http://www.music.uwo.ca/>), or the McIntosh Gallery (<http://mcintoshgallery.ca/>).

Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. If you are in emotional or mental distress, please visit Western Psychological Services (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych>) for a list of options for obtaining help. To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: <https://uwo.ca/health/wec/education/learning.html>.

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/ssd/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>