The University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 3010F
Introduction to Rural Communities

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Office Room Number: TBD
Office Hours: By appointment

TA contact will be posted on WebCT. See WebCT for time and location.

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.

Course Information
This course provides an introduction to rural communities and how they differ from urban communities. Rural and urban comparisons will be introduced from sociological, economic, political, and health services perspectives.

The learning objectives of this course are to:

- Understand rural communities from a variety of perspectives, and how rural communities are defined and how they define themselves
- Understand the health of the rural population
- Understand how the social determinants of health affect people living in rural communities
- Understand the most important issues in rural health care and the policies and approaches that can address these issues successfully
- Understand the roles of various levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal to deliver service programs to rural communities

Course Materials
Materials required as readings for this course will all be available from internet journals or sources. There is no required textbook to purchase. Links to all the course materials are provided on WebCT. Students are responsible for accessing the materials.

Evaluation
Students’ academic performance will be assessed in the following ways:
A. 10 short summaries (30%)
Students are expected to prepare for every class by reading the week-by-week materials. For any 10 of the classes in the term (one per week September 20 to November 29) write a 200-250 word summary of what you have learned from the readings.

An electronic & hard copy of each of your 10 summaries is due by 3:30 pm on the day the material will be discussed. No summaries (either hard copy or electronic) will be accepted after 3:30 pm, on the day the article is to be discussed. No summaries based on readings already discussed will be accepted.

The summary title should identify which article you are writing about, you do not need to provide an APA style reference within your summary. The summaries must be typed (12 point font) with your name and the date at the top of the page.

Each summary will be graded as a 1, 2, or 3 with each summary worth 3.0%, totalling up to 30% of the final grade. The grade will be based on:
   1. Content: Each report should contain:
      a. 2 or 3 important concepts in the readings
      b. 2 or 3 important statistics in the readings
      c. 1 or 2 significant questions the readings prompted you to think about
   2. Style
      a. Good sentence structure and fluent writing, correct spelling and grammar
      b. Proper length
   3. Analysis
      a. Clear, easy to follow the train of thought
      b. Demonstrates comprehension of the topic matter

The graded summaries will be returned, and students should keep the graded hard copy. These weekly summaries, along with your own notes from the readings and from the weekly discussions in class, should be a help as you prepare for the exams.

B. Mid Term examination (35%)
There will be a mid-term examination covering the material in the course to date. It will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions.

C. Final examination (35%)
There will be a final examination covering the material in the course after the mid-term. It will consist of multiple choice questions.
A student who requires accommodation for absences from exams or late assignments shall provide proper documentation to the department’s Academic Advisor. Where medical documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office and it will be the Dean’s office that will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. Should accommodation be denied, the student may appeal to the Academic Counselling Office of their Faculty for consideration. In the case of exams, if accommodation is approved an essay style make up exam will be offered. Other approved accommodation will be negotiated case by case.

**Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**
It is expected that students will be considerate of their colleagues and the instructor. Students are reminded to keep any noise and disruption to an absolute minimum in class. Cell phone, MSN, email or internet use in the classroom is strictly prohibited. Be advised to use email judiciously and not frivolously.

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**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

**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/board/code.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf).

**English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades**

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

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm).
Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is more than 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed.

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student’s Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222.

**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/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/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/ssd/](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/)