The University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 3400B
Health Policy

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Regan, RN, PhD
Email: sregan4@uwo.ca (within WebCT)
Phone number: 519-661-2111 ext. 86574
Office: Health Sciences Addition, School of Nursing, Room H34
Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistants: Allan McDougall
Monika Schell
Kyoka Wada

Lecture Times: Tuesday 12:30 to 2:30 pm
Thursday 3:30 to 4:30 pm

Class Location: Natural Science Building Room 1

Prerequisite Checking

Pre-requisite: Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B; or the former Health Sciences 1000.

Requirements:
  a. Successful completion of Health Sciences 1000 or Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B
     Written consent obtained from the Dean of Health Sciences to enroll in Health Sciences 3400B – Health Policy

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

Calendar Description
An examination of the process, outcome and implementation of health policy with a specific focus on Canadian health policy. Key issues to be addressed include the development of policy, the various actors involved in the health policy process; the different arenas where health policy is created, the various policy instruments and how these are implemented and evaluated.

Course format
This course will use a variety of activities including:
a) traditional didactic teaching (lecture)
b) small group and individual work
c) online discussion groups
d) guest speakers

Students are expected to come to class prepared, i.e., having read the assigned chapter readings, articles and/or relevant course material. Attendance and participation in class and online is expected.

WebCT
WebCT will be used for posting readings, for small group discussions, and course related questions. Students are responsible for checking WebCT regularly to ensure updated access to relevant course material and/or any changes to the course schedule. Any additional course material or assignments will be posted on WebCT. For example, media and other reports with relevance to health policy will be posted prior to class. Questions for the online discussion groups will also be posted in WebCT.

Emails to the course faculty and teaching assistants will occur in WebCT only. Email should be used to book appointments and individual concerns. Email should not be used for course questions (see below).

Should there be difficulty accessing WebCT, please contact Instructional Technology Services (ITS) at a) 519-661-3800 or https://servlet.uwo.ca:8081/helpdesk/index.jsp In no manner should any communiqué posted or sent to WebCT, be recorded, disseminated or distributed via other means such as social networking sites. In no manner should any communication posted or sent to WebCT, be recorded, disseminated or distributed via other means.

Course Questions
Discussion threads have been created for each week of the course. Students should post questions regarding course content to the appropriate section on WebCT. Teaching assistants and course faculty will respond to posted questions. Students are also encouraged to respond to questions to facilitate learning and share their own insights on course content.
Small Group Work and Online Discussions
Each student will sign up for a small group of up to 5 students during the first week of the course. The link for the group sign-up sheets can be found on the Home Page on WebCT. Students who have not signed up for a group by 12:00 pm on January 13th will be assigned to a group by course faculty. Students will work with their group on assignments and for online discussions.

Course Materials

Required Textbooks:


Both textbooks have been ordered and are available in the UWO Bookstore.

Required Readings:
A selection of readings will be posted on WebCT on a weekly basis (Home Page – Weekly Course Resources). These readings include relevant peer-reviewed articles, health policy reports, media reports, and websites. These readings will complement the weekly topic and textbook readings.

Lecture Slides
Lecture presentations from the course instructor will be posted on WebCT the day before class. The lecture presentations will be made available in PDF format, 3 slides per page with space for notes. Lecture presentations from the guest speakers may not always be available and posted on WebCT. It is at the discretion of the guest lecturer whether he/she decides to make his/her PowerPoint slides available to the students.

Evaluation

Two Assignments 30% (15% each)
Participation 20% (e.g. online discussions, in-class exercises)
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 30%

A minimum of 50% is required to pass the course. A mark of less than 50% will lead to failure of the course.


**Grading Criteria**

The university-wide descriptors of the meaning of letter grades outlined as follows are approved by Senate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Superior work which is clearly above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Competent work, meeting requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>Fair work, minimally acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignments**

Assignments are to be submitted prior to or on the due date by 9:00 am. Assignments should be submitted electronically via Turnitin and the Assignment Dropbox in WebCT. Please submit your assignments in Microsoft Word document format.

**Assignment 1** is a group assignment, i.e., up to a maximum of 5 students per group. Several health and social issues will be posted and each group will select one topic to work on for this assignment. Students will respond to several questions related to their chosen issue including the historical context of the issue, role of various levels of government and factors that have shaped and influenced the issue. Details will be posted in WebCT.

Due February 17, 2012 by 9:00 am

**Assignment 2** is a group assignment. Each group will select from one of several health and social policy topics and develop a briefing note. Details will be provided in class and posted in WebCT.

Due March 27, 2012 by 9:00 am

**Marking of Written Assignments**

All written assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the UWO for the detection of plagiarism. All written work 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 UWO and Turnitin.com ([http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

**Late Assignments**

A late assignment will be penalized 10% for each part or full day, subsequent to the due date. For example, for a paper out of 15 marks, 1.5 marks per day will be deducted from the assigned mark. No assignments will be accepted after one week.
Participation
Participation marks will be allocated for individual and group in-class and online activities. These activities include small group online discussion based on posted readings or case studies, in-class quizzes, and in-class individual or group work. Only those activities that the student participates in will be eligible for marks.

Exams
Mid-term Exam - 20%
This will be held in class on February 28th. The duration is a maximum of two hours.
The format of the exam will consist of a combination of:
a) multiple choice questions
b) true or false questions
c) matching questions

The content that each student will be tested is based upon lectures, readings, and assignments from January 10, 2012 to February 16, 2012:

Final Exam – 30%
This exam will be held in April during the university examination period. The date, time and location will be confirmed and announced in class and posted on WebCT.

The format of the three hour exam will consist of a combination of
a) multiple choice questions
b) true or false questions
c) short written answer questions

This exam will cover the entire course content from
a) lectures from January 10, 2012 to April 10, 2012
b) all assigned course readings including those from the required textbooks, articles, media reports, and websites
c) other course content including guest speakers, online discussion questions, assignments, etc.

Examination conduct of students will be in accordance with the UWO policy on Administration of Examinations as found at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/administration.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:
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.

**Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

Cellular phone and pagers must be turned off during lecture periods. Web surfing and emailing during lecture is discouraged. Video, webcam, photo or voice recordings of the instructor or the teaching assistants are prohibited. Discovery of any of such occurrences may lead to dismissal from the lecture and confiscation of the cellular phone, pager, video, webcam, laptop or photo or voice recording equipment.

**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.

**English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades**


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

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

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.

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.

**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/
## Course Schedule (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date (Tuesday)</th>
<th>Topic and Readings</th>
<th>Date (Thursday)</th>
<th>Topic and Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Introduction to Course Chapter 1 (GG*)</td>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>What is policy? Readings to be posted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Federal and Provincial Governments Chapter 2, 5, &amp; 6 (GG)</td>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Bill Passing Process Pages 61-68 (PP**) Pages 155-157 (GG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Political Parties and Ideology Chapter 2 (PP) Chapter 3 (GG)</td>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>Case Studies – online discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Introduction to Policy Theory Chapter 1 &amp; 3 (PP)</td>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Introduction to Policy Theory Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>Historical Overview of Canadian Health Policy Readings to be posted</td>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>Case Studies – online discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Constitution, Charter, and Courts Chapter 7 (GG) Readings to be posted</td>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Case Studies Midterm review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>February 21 – 25</td>
<td>Reading Week – No class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>February 28</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Stages of Policy-Making Chapter 4 and 5 (PP)</td>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Midterm Exam Review Writing an Issue Brief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Citizen Engagement in Policy Chapter 6 (PP) Chapter 4 (GG)</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Case Studies – online discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Policy-Making and Evidence Readings to be posted</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Case Studies – online discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Directions in Health and Social Policy Chapter 9 (GG) Chapter 9 (PP)</td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Case Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Topics in Health Policy Guest Speakers</td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Guest Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Course Review and Wrap-up</td>
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*GG = A citizen’s guide to government

**PP = Connecting policy to practice in the Human Services