The University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 3400A
Health Policy

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Regan, RN, PhD
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Office: Health Sciences Addition, School of Nursing, Room H34
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Teaching Assistants: TBA

Lecture Times: Thursday 2:30 pm to 5:30 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 3400A – 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.

**OWL-- the New WebCT**
OWL will be used for posting readings, for small group discussions, and course related questions. Students are responsible for checking OWL 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 OWL. For example, media and other reports with relevance to health policy will be posted prior to class.

**Emails to the course faculty and teaching assistants will occur in OWL only.** Email should be used to book appointments and individual concerns. Email should not be used for course questions (see below). Should you need to contact course faculty by email (outside Sakai) please ensure you use your “uwo” email as all other emails will be directed to “junk email” folder and you will not receive a response.

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

**Course Questions**
In OWL, Forums have been created for each week of the course. Students should post questions regarding course content to the appropriate section in OWL (Sakai). 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.

Weekly office hours will be posted in OWL using Calendar. These are drop-in (first come, first served).

**Small Group Work and Online Discussions**
Each student will sign up for a small group of four students by the second week of the course. Students will work with their group on the assignment and online discussions. In OWL Forums, a discussion area will be provided for each small group.
**Course Materials**

**Required Textbook:**
The textbook has been ordered and is available in the UWO Bookstore. One copy is on course reserve in the Taylor Library.

**Required Readings:**
A selection of required readings or links to readings will be posted on OWL on a weekly basis – in Weekly Readings & Lecture Notes. These readings include relevant peer-reviewed articles, health policy reports, media reports, and websites. These readings will complement the weekly topic and textbook readings. Several readings will be assigned from the following publication:


NOTE: I recommend you download a copy to your computer rather than print in its entirety as only some chapters from this document will be assigned readings.

**Lecture Slides**
Lecture slides from the course instructor will be posted in OWL the day of class in Weekly Readings & Lecture Notes. The lecture slides will be made available in PDF format, one slide per page. Presentations from the guest speakers may not always be available and posted on OWL. It is at the discretion of the guest lecturer whether he/she decides to make his/her PowerPoint slides available to the students. In such instances, the published articles and your own notes are the best reference.

**Evaluation**

Group Assignment - 20%
Participation - 10% (e.g. online discussions, in-class exercise)
Midterm Exam - 30%
Final Exam - 40%

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

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

- **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.
Group Assignment

**The assignment** is a group assignment, i.e., approximately four students per group. Three health policy 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 health 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 provided in class and posted in the Assignment and Online Discussion Resources tab in OWL. **Due November 13th at 12:00 pm**

The assignment is to be submitted prior to or on the due date electronically via the Assignments Submission tab in OWL. Please submit your assignment in Microsoft Word document format. A deduction of 10% will be made for assignments not submitted in Word.

**Marking of Written Assignments**

All written assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the UWO for the detection of plagiarism (Turnitin). 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 20 marks, 2.0 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, or in-class individual or group work. Only those activities that the student participates in will be eligible for marks. Criteria for evaluation of online discussion will be posted in the in the Assignment and Online Discussion Resources tab OWL.

**Exams**

**Mid-term Exam**

This will be held in class on October 24th at 3:00 pm.

The duration is a maximum of 90 minutes.

The format of the exam will consist of a combination of:

a) multiple choice questions

b) true or false questions

c) matching questions

The mid-term exam will be based on lectures, readings, and online discussions from September 12th to October 17th inclusive.
**Final Exam**

This exam will be held in December during the university examination period December 8-19, 2013. The date, time and location will be confirmed and announced in class and posted on OWL (Sakai).

The format of the 2.5 hour final exam will consist of a combination of:

- a) multiple choice questions
- b) true or false questions
- c) matching questions
- d) short written answer questions

This exam will cover the entire course content from:

- a) lectures from September 12th, 2013 to December 5th, 2013 inclusive;
- b) all assigned course readings including those from the required textbook, articles, policy reports, and websites; and
- 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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/administration.pdf)

Students are not permitted to retain a copy of the mid-term or final exam questions. 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, a Scholastic Offence. In addition, for written responses to short answer questions, the responses may be subjected to the use of the service as outlined in the licensing agreement, currently between the UWO and Turnitin.com ([http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

The consequences of cheating or plagiarism will be in alignment with the Preamble on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students at the University of Western Ontario as found at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf). Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to familiarize themselves with the definition of a Scholastic Offence in accordance with the UWO Policy on a Scholastic Offence as found at: [http://uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf). If you have missed an exam, it is important that you notify the Academic Counsellor. If you have missed an exam due to medical illness, you must provide sufficient written documentation of your illness as indicated in accordance with the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness – Undergraduate Studies: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf) and also in accordance with the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness as found at: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm)
Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off during lecture periods. Web surfing and emailing during lecture is not permitted. 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.

**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.

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/
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/
### Proposed Course Schedule – subject to change – readings posted in OWL (see tab Weekly Readings and Lecture Notes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| 1    | September 12 | Introduction to the Course  
Overview of health policy and policy process                                               |
| 2    | September 19 | Power and the policy process/Canadian government structure and process                   |
| 3    | September 26 | Canadian health care system: Organization and structure  
Provision of services                                                                     |
| 4    | October 3   | Agenda Setting: Canadian health policy issues                                               |
| 5    | October 10  | Policy Formulation:  
Government Role  
Health care financing                                                                     |
| 6    | October 17  | Policy Formulation:  
Interest Groups  
Public involvement                                                                        |
| 7    | October 24  | **MIDTERM EXAM – IN CLASS**                                                               |
| 8    | October 31  | **FALL STUDY BREAK**                                                                     |
| 9    | November 7  | Policy Implementation: Ontario Health Policy                                              |
| 10   | November 14 | Knowledge translation, evaluation and policy  
Guest speaker                                                                            |
| 11   | November 21 | Topics in Health Policy  
Guest Speaker                                                                            |
| 12   | November 28 | Topics in Health Policy  
Guest Speaker                                                                            |
| 13   | December 5  | Doing policy analysis  
Course Wrap up                                                                              |