THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES
Faculty of Health Sciences

Enabling Health and Well-being through Occupation
RS 3125A
Fall 2014
- DRAFT OUTLINE -

Instructor: Dr. Suzanne Huot, PhD, School of Occupational Therapy

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Office hours: The instructor will be available to meet prior to class on Mondays. Otherwise, students can request an appointment via e-mail.

Class time and location: Mondays, 11:30-12:30 and Wednesdays, 10:30-12:30, SSC 2020

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Objectives and orientation
This course addresses the construct of ‘occupation’ as explored and understood within the field of occupational science and practice of occupational therapy. In this course, students will develop an understanding of the broad conceptualization of human occupation, which incorporates all that people do to occupy their time on a daily basis. Within the course, the construct of occupation will be addressed in relation to particular dimensions, such as time and place, and concepts, such as identity and justice. Students will develop and apply an occupational perspective to address contemporary issues and to consider the relationship between occupation and health and well-being. Topics will include the contribution of meaningful occupational engagement to one’s identity, and the negative consequences of occupational deprivation. This course is reliant on student preparation and participation. While classes will primarily be lecture-based, several classes will incorporate class participation involving critically informed scholarly discussions of readings. Core readings are specified for each session so that there is common basis for scholarly discussion. Students are expected to critically consider these core readings, and to obtain additional readings as required to further their understanding of relevant issues.

Prerequisite: Registration in a Rehabilitation Sciences module or enrollment in the School of Health Studies

Antirequisite: Health Sciences 3091A section 001 if taken in 2011-12 or 2012-13

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.
### TOPICS AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Orientation to course</td>
<td>Review course outline and clarify methods and expectations</td>
<td>No required reading</td>
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<td>Introducing occupation</td>
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<td>Discussing the relationship between the discipline and the practice</td>
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<td>Addressing the temporal dimensions of occupation</td>
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| Oct. 1 & 6 | Identity | Exploring the relationship between occupation and identity  
|           |         | Outlining the concept of ‘occupational identity’  

| Oct. 8 & 20 | Transitions  
|            | * Group assignment topic due | Exploring occupation during times of transition, as well as transitions to occupation  

| Oct. 22 |  | **Mid-term examination** |

| Oct. 27 & 29 | Community and society | Considering the occupational nature of social groups and communities  
|             |         | Discussing the relationship between occupational engagement, belonging and a sense of connection  
|             |         | Students will be assigned one of six articles that must be read ahead of class.  
|             |         | Articles will be posted in OWL |

| Nov. 3 & 5 | Culture and diversity | Discussing whether occupation is a cross-cultural universal  
|           |         | Addressing different ways to understand occupation  

* Assignment due November 10

| Nov. 10 & 12 | Occupational deprivation and possibilities | Exploring the concepts of occupational deprivation and occupational possibilities |
| Nov. 10 & 12 | Occupational deprivation and possibilities | Considering external limitations upon individual engagement in occupation |

| Nov. 24 & 26 | Global perspectives on occupation | Considering the influences of globalization upon occupation and different perspectives on occupation  
Available in OWL |
| Dec. 1 & 3 | Occupational justice  
Course review and exam preparation | Examining the concept of occupational justice  
Linking this concept to others addressed within the course  
COURSE MATERIALS

Required readings listed above are available online through OWL.


- This textbook was used last year and used copies may be available through the Book Store

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

A) PARTICIPATION (10% of total mark)

Participation marks will be assigned for completion and submission of exercises that will be completed within class time or through OWL. The exercises will relate to the topic of focus within the lecture and will enable students to apply and further consider some of the concepts and issues addressed within class. As these active learning and reflection exercises are related to course content, class attendance is strongly recommended. Exercises that occur during class must be submitted by the end of class and those occurring through OWL will have posted deadlines. If students miss a class or an online deadline they will NOT be allowed to complete the exercise for marks. Exceptions can be made for students who miss class for a valid reason, but students must advise the instructor of their absence ahead of time.

B) MID-TERM EXAMINATION (25% of total mark)

- The mid-term examination will consist of multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions.
- The questions will be drawn from all course content covered up to the point of the mid-term, including all lecture material and assigned required readings (Sept. 8-Oct. 20)
- It will take place in class on October 22

C) GROUP ASSIGNMENT: Examining the social determinants of health through an occupational perspective (30% of total mark)

Working in groups of 4 to 5, students will prepare a presentation addressing an issue of their choice relating to the social determinants health. This assignment is due on November 10, 2014 at 10:30am. The presentation must be submitted electronically through OWL. A hard copy of the presentation and a one-page summary detailing the contribution of individual group members must also be submitted in class on November 10, 2014.

Students will create a presentation about their selected topic using PowerPoint. Presentations must be between 10-15 minutes in length. Presentations that are shorter than 10 minutes or longer than 15 minutes will be penalized. Using the ‘record narration’ function in PowerPoint, students will narrate the presentation slides. All presentations will be uploaded into OWL so that all students will have the opportunity to view presentations created by other groups.
Presentations will outline the issue selected for study by providing a clear and comprehensive overview of the topic being addressed. Presentations must include relevant background and contextual information (e.g. Why was topic selected? Why is this topic important to address?). Presentations must also address the contemporary context of the issue (e.g. What are the current issues of relevance in relation to the topic selected? May include any relevant policy/legal issues). Finally, presentations must highlight what the occupational implications of the selected topic may be.

All students must contribute to the preparation of their group’s presentation. In addition to submitting the PowerPoint presentations, groups will also have to submit a one-page summary of the contributions made by each group member (e.g. which student read which article(s), which student prepared which slides, etc). A hard copy of this summary must be submitted to the professor in class on November 10, 2014. Students are responsible for managing group dynamics and resolving group conflicts.

Additional assignment details:
- Presentations must be between 10-15 minutes in length and must be created using PowerPoint.
- The presentation should be properly referenced (references must be included on slides, with a full reference list included at the end of the presentation)
- A minimum of 5 references must be included – at least 4 of these should be additional readings (not articles that were assigned as required readings for course)
- Selected references can be specific to the issue being addressed, but can also be more general or theoretical in nature
- Presentations will be marked according to mechanics (5 marks), content (10 marks), and critical thinking (15 marks) – further detailed below

Marking criteria:

Mechanics (5 marks)
- presentation structure (adherence to time frame, quality of audiovisual material)
- presentation flow (logical progression, distribution of time to various topics, flow between various aspects of presentation)
- communication (clarity of expression, pacing of presentation)

Content (10 marks):
- Present issue selected for study (Provide a clear and comprehensive overview of the topic being addressed)
- Include relevant background and contextual information (Why was topic selected? Why is this topic important to address?)
- Include attention to contemporary context (What are the current issues of relevance in relation to the topic selected? May include any relevant policy/legal issues)
- Highlight what the occupational implications of the selected topic may be
- Individual contribution (detailed one page summary of each members’ contribution submitted)
Critical Thinking (15 marks)
- Express key concepts and issues in concise, yet comprehensive, manner
- Exhibit logical flow of thought and depth of understanding
- Rather than simply summarize articles read, should draw on references to present a critical look at your selected issue (e.g. What are the main barriers and challenges faced?)
- Focus on the message you want to get across with respect to the topic
- Draw on academic references to support the arguments raised throughout the presentation

D) FINAL EXAM (35% of total mark)

- Will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions
- Will not be cumulative and will only address content not covered by the mid-term examination (Oct. 27-Dec.3)
- Will be scheduled within the final examination period

NOTE – FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS:
The assignment is due at the beginning of class (10:30 AM) on the date indicated. Late assignments will incur penalties of 10% per day beginning at the end of the class in which they are due. No extensions will be granted. Although a mark of 0 will be assigned for assignments that are more than 7 days late, all assignments must be completed and handed in by the last class on December 6th. In the case of illness, please see the policy on accommodation for medical illness: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm

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.

Plagiarism and academic integrity:
Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). 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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf.

All assignments 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.
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Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

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.

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 Western 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.

Language Proficiency:
Each student granted admission to Western must be proficient in spoken and written English. Students must demonstrate the ability to write clearly and correctly. Work presented in English in any subject at any level, which shows a lack of proficiency in English and is, therefore, unacceptable for academic credit, will either be failed or, at the discretion of Dr. Huot, returned to the student for revision to a literate level.

Grammar:
Poor grammar matters academically, but it also projects an unprofessional image in professional writing. Remember that what may slide by in informal conversation is not necessarily
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acceptable in written language. Grammar checking programs may be helpful, but they may not catch all errors. If writing is a real problem for you, the Student Development Centre offers an excellent Effective Writing Program.

Use of Technology During Classes:
The instructor supports the appropriate use of technology during classes. However, cell phones and other communication devices should be turned off during class unless you are involved in an urgent situation, when vibrate or silent mode should be used. Laptops may be used for note taking but accessing MSN, email or the internet is not permitted during class unless otherwise informed by the instructor.

Privacy:
In order to respect privacy, graded assignments will only be returned directly to the student concerned. Individual grades will be posted to OWL, where they are secure. Grades will only be shared over e-mail if absolutely necessary and only with written permission from the student.

Professional Behaviour in Class:
Students are expected to demonstrate exemplary professional behaviour and respect for others in class. Address all instructors and guest lecturers with dignity and respect and fully demonstrate a client centered approach to learning and interacting with others. Some examples of disrespect include: being late for class or late returning from breaks, side conversations during lectures, wearing hats with visors that cover your face, wearing sunglasses.

Library Support:
Marisa Surmacz is available to provide group teaching to support research for a particular assignment. She can be reached at marisa.surmacz@uwo.ca or by telephone at (519) 661-2111, Ext. 80959.

Accommodation for students with disabilities:
It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office to arrange for the appropriate forms to be sent to the course instructor for special accommodations. Accommodations cannot be granted without the appropriate documentation.

Support services: for additional supports please refer to the following relevant sites:
Registrarial services: http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca
Student development centre: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca
Student services: https://studentservices.uwo.ca
SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS


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