The University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 3010G
Introduction to Rural Communities

January to April 2016

Instructor: Dr. Mantler
Email: tara.mantler@uwo.ca
Office Room Number: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Date/Time: Thursday 6:00-9:00pm
Location: HSB 240

**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 offers an introduction to rural communities within the Canadian context. This course will examine how rural and urban communities differ using sociological, infrastructure, political, and health services perspectives. By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Identify rural communities utilizing various definitions
- Understand factors contributing to ‘rurality’
- Understand how geographic location intersects with various social determinants of health
- Identify and critically examine how geographic location intersects with health (including disease prevalence, service use/availability, and health outcomes)
- Engage in critical scholarship of the impact of rurality on health

Students are expected to prepare for the course by completing required readings prior to class and come to class prepared to engage with the material. The grade for this course will be comprised of a midterm examination, group project, and final examination. The midterm and final examinations will consist of multiple choice questions covering all information related to lectures and assigned readings.
Course Materials

There is no required text for this course; however, readings/materials will be made available through Sakai and online access to journals through the Western library. Please consult the reading schedule posted on Sakai.

Evaluation

Your grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Course Material Included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>All lecture and reading material covered to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>March 10, March 17, and March 24</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(15% presentation; 20% paper; 2.5% peer evaluation; 2.5% attendance to peer presentations)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>All lecture and reading material covered throughout the course (as presented by the Instructor)</td>
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Note: 1) Should a student miss the midterm due to medical illness (and accommodation be endorsed by the Dean’s office) the final examination will be re-weighted to 60%- no make up midterm will be offered. 2) Papers submitted late will be deducted 10% per day.

Group Project

Purpose: Using the social determinants of health, students will prepare a paper and dynamic presentation with the objective of examining a rural community in Canada and the associated (specific) implications for health (35%).

Group: The project will be completed in groups of 4-5 students.

Project must include the following components:

- Creation of a community and health profile
- Examination of the social factors impacting the health of the community
- Examination of health enhancing community factors
- Examination health reducing community factors

Format

- Be a minimum of 8 pages, maximum of 10 pages in length
Peer Evaluation

Each student will evaluate peer contribution to presentations (2.5%).

Attendance to Peer Presentations

Attendance to peer presentation grades will be determined based on class consensus (2.5%).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices in service of learning will be permitted in the classroom and are encouraged. Moreover, electronic devices will not be allowed during examinations.

Lecture Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Course outline</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Rural Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Defining Rurality: What is in a definition?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Social and Political Factors Impacting the Health of Rural Communities</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Infrastructure factors and Health in Rural Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Health Services in Rural Communities/Access and availability (Technology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Aboriginal Health and Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Issues Impacting Rural Health Care: A case study of violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mar 31</td>
<td>Looking to the Future/Current Issues</td>
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<td>April 9-20</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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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](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/)