In September 2015 at the UN General Assembly’s Sustainable Development Summit, more than 150 Heads of State adopted the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals provide a clear set of health and development related targets for all countries to strive to meet by 2030. Essential to the realization of these goals is the presence of strong, equitable health systems. In particular, the SDGs provide clear targets related to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage. Universal Health Coverage, or UHC, is when all people have access to needed, quality health services without suffering financial burden. Using the Sustainable Development Goals as a backdrop, and in particular the global target of UHC, this course will survey a selection of national health systems worldwide. The course will begin by looking at the Canadian health system and move to examples from countries in both the global north and global south. Students will explore a series of interrelated topics, including health delivery systems, financing mechanisms, production and retention of relevant human resources for health, the role of public and private actors, and the adoption of new technologies. Throughout the course students will be encouraged to critically examine the extent to which different health systems are managing to promote or hinder equitable access to quality health services among their diverse populations.

Course Objectives

• To build an understanding of how key elements of Canada’s health system (for example financing mechanisms, health service delivery systems) compare to the same elements in health systems in a range of diverse countries.

• To strengthen skills for analyzing how social, political, economic and historical factors shape national health systems, using example countries from both the global north and
global south.

- To develop tools to be able to examine and compare a diverse set of national health systems from countries in both the global north and global south, with particular attention to issues of equitable access to quality health care.

Course Topics

This course will focus on a different topic area each week. Sample topics include financing mechanisms, including health insurance schemes, human resources for health, the adoption of new technologies and the systems for tracking the quality of care. Sample countries include Canada, the United States, as well as examples from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A full list of topics and readings will be available in the final syllabus, to be posted on the OWL site in early September.

Course Materials

Course materials will be posted on the OWL website.

Course Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>30 % (Monday, October 24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group research presentation/class</td>
<td>30 % (Throughout second half of term, specific dates to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facilitation</td>
<td>be assigned to each group)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Mid-Term Exam

A mid term exam will be given in class on Monday, October 24. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions and will be based on class content and assigned readings for all sessions prior to the exam date.

2. Group research presentation/class facilitation

Students will work in groups of approximately 5 to research a particular national health system of their choice and prepare a class presentation that highlights key elements, including delivery systems, financing mechanisms, efficiency and equity and quality. The countries selected by each group must be different than the ones covered in class. Students will be provided with a template to guide them in their research process. Class time will also be allocated to provide some of the time required to complete this project. Students are asked to highlight the main elements of their selected health system and discuss these in reference to the course material covered in class. They are then responsible for engaging the class in some sort of brief active learning activity of their choice (for example interactive discussion, debate, etc.) that helps us think about and better understand their chosen health system. Each group will be allocated a total of 20 minutes for their session. ALL students are expected to fully participate in these sessions and support their student colleagues, regardless of whether it is their group’s turn to
present or to act as an audience. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be posted on OWL in the Assignments Folder in early September.

3. Final Exam
A final exam covering the course content will be given during the December exam period. The exam will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions based on specific cases and scenarios.

Process of International Health Systems Course
In this course, learning and teaching are considered a shared responsibility. The instructor’s role is to guide, facilitate and support your learning. The course is designed to foster discussion, debate, and critical examination of concepts relevant to the comparison of health systems from different parts of the world. Your commitment and active participation in the activities will support your own learning as well as the learning of your colleagues. Attendance in class and active participation in all activities is therefore expected.

Late Assignments
A late assignment will be penalized 10% for each day, or part of day, that it is late. There will be no exceptions except for valid, extenuating circumstances (e.g., incapacitating illness etc.) which MUST be documented as outlined below in the case of medical illness.

Makeup Exams
You must have a valid medical or compassionate reason for missing a scheduled examination, and documentation for your absence must be filed with the main office of the School of Health Studies prior to the examination (please see “Additional Statements” section below for information pertaining to accommodation for medical illness or non-medical absences).

Retroactive accommodation (i.e., for exams that have been written) will not generally be granted, nor will last minute requests for extensions/make-up exams. Following receipt of approved accommodation from the counselling office, a makeup examination will be scheduled within one week of the originally scheduled exam. Please note that makeup examinations may differ in format from the originally scheduled exam.

General Course Policies and Procedures

Rounding of Grades and Re-Weighting of Exams
These are practices some students request. These practices will not occur in this course. The edges of this course are clear and sharp. The mark attained is the mark you achieved and the mark assigned; there is no rounding to the next grade level, and there is no re-weighting of exams or exam questions. Please do not ask me to do this for you.

Course Website (OWL)
All students in this course need to use OWL to access resources used in this course such as PowerPoint (lecture) handouts, additional handouts and/or readings, and this course outline. Students are responsible to check the OWL site regularly for this course for updates and announcements. Additionally, due to changes in privacy legislation, grades will only be provided to you through the course website – I will not, under any circumstance, convey grades via email or over the phone.

OWL is an electronic shared space that will be used frequently throughout the course for a variety of purposes. Please interact respectfully on this shared e-space. The privilege of contributing to the site can be revoked if deemed necessary.

Please contact Instructional Technology Services (ITS) for difficulties in accessing OWL Sakai at (519) 661-3800, or https://servlet.uwo.ca:8081/helpdesk/index.jsp.

**Use of Cellphones During Class**

The use of cell phones is prohibited during lectures for any reason including taking pictures of the instructor or lecture material. Please ensure that all cellphones or other communication devices are turned off or have their ringers silenced (or turned to vibrate) during lectures. Students may be asked to turn off such equipment or to leave the classroom if their activities are disruptive to the instructor and/or other students.

**Use of Laptops During Class**

The use of laptops is permitted for use in the classroom for note-taking purposes only. Students may be asked to close laptops or to leave the classroom if their activities are disruptive to the instructor and/or other students.

**Use of Recording Devices and Cameras During Class**

You do not have my permission to make audio or video recordings of lectures, or to take pictures of lecture material.

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

**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 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.

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 Health Studies 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://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/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/)