The University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies
Health Sciences 4400b
Advanced Health Policy

Winter 2018

Instructor: Melanie McPhail, JD
Email: mmcphai3@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBD
Lecture Times and Location: Tuesdays, 12:30am – 2:30pm HSB 240

Prerequisites

Unless you have either the prerequisites 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.

Please refer to the current Western Academic Calendar at www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca, for information regarding pre-requisites and anti-requisites.

Pre-requisites: Health Sciences 3400a/b

Course Information

Course Description: This course will examine contemporary health issues that can impact health care policy development and implementation. These may include such diverse topics as health system reform, public health policy, aging and mental health policies to name but a few.

This course will consist primarily of lectures and student presentations. Students are responsible for all assigned readings.

Course Objectives: The Learning objectives of this course are for students to:

- Understand the role of government and the non-governmental organizations in the formulation, development and implementation of health policy;
- Understand the political, social, and economic contexts that shape health policy
Class Format:

This class will have limited lecture format sessions, and instead will focus largely on student-led and facilitated discussions. Students are expected to have read assigned readings for lectures, as well as student-assigned readings for student presentations. Groups of students will be responsible for preparing a presentation and leading the discussion for a selected topic. The topics, dates, and groups will be determined once course enrolment is finalized.

In some weeks, there will also be a tutorial held online on OWL. Please follow the course schedule, as the tutorials will not be held every week. The format for the tutorials will be discussed in more detail in class, and the finalized schedule will be posted on OWL.

Class policies

Powerpoints (when used) will be available on OWL at least 1 hour before class.

If students have a question, please post it on the appropriate OWL Forum. This allows all students to benefit from the answers and prevents students asking the same question multiple times. Students are encouraged to answer their peer’s questions as well. Students can also email the Instructor directly with questions if they prefer not to post them publicly.

Students are permitted to use laptops or similar devices for note-taking purposes, but are reminded to be respectful of other students.

Webcam, video, photographic or audio recordings of the instructor, teaching assistants, or guest speakers without permission is prohibited. Unauthorized recording of any kind may lead to dismissal from the class or course.

Disruptive, rude, or otherwise inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated in class.

Course Materials

There is no required text. All required readings will be posted on OWL.

Evaluation

Participation: 20% (10% in class, 10% in tutorials)
Group Presentation: 25%
Paper Proposal: 15%
Final Paper: 40%

Participation (20%)

The participation grade is broken down into two 10% sections. The first 10% will be graded on in-class participation in discussions as well as peer-assessments of student presentations. The second 10% will be for participation in tutorials (5 tutorials @ 2% each). For each tutorial, students will be asked to listen to a short podcast, and provide a brief reflection response (min 250 words, max 500 words) to be submitted in OWL. The schedule of podcasts will be made available so that students can listen on their own time, but
reaction responses will have to be submitted by the corresponding deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted. Further clarification and instructions will be provided in class and on OWL.

**Group Presentation (25%)**

Student groups will be responsible for preparing and executing a presentation on a topic from a list of pre-selected topics. The length of presentations and size of groups will depend on course enrollment, so it will be finalized in the first few weeks of class. Student groups will be expected to select 1-2 relevant readings to share with the class prior to the lecture. To do so, one member of the group should email links or pdfs of the readings to the Instructor a minimum of 1 week prior to the presentation date. Powerpoints or other visual-media may be used, but are not required. Further instructions as to the format of the presentations will be provided in class.

Students will receive a mark as a group for their presentation. Students will also be asked to complete a self-assessment in addition to an assessment of their group members. Students will be graded on presentation skills, clarity, engagement, and peer assessment.

**Paper Proposal (15%)**

Students must complete a proposal for their final paper. Paper Proposals are due February 15th via OWL. Proposals should be maximum 1 page long, and should include a proposed thesis statement, brief outline of the paper, and a list of 5-10 references. Proposals will be returned the week of February 27 to allow students to incorporate feedback into their final paper.

**Final Paper (40%)**

The purpose of the final paper is to allow students to explore a topic of interest to them that fits within the scope of the course. Students can write about any health policy topic that is of interest to them, including, but not limited to: analysis of a proposed or implemented health policy, comparisons of different health policies, and/or identification of an issue and potential policy responses. Students are encouraged to discuss the topic of their paper with the Instructor. Students are welcome to write their final paper on the same topic as their group presentation, but final papers are to be written individually, not as a group.

Papers should be 20-25 pages long (including references), double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12pt font (times new roman preferable). Title pages are not required. Students should be sure to include a title, their name, and student number on the paper, as well as numbered pages. Students are required to submit a copy online via OWL, as well as a hard copy on the last day of class (April 10). Any citation style may be used, as long as it is consistent, but footnotes are preferable to in-text citations.

Students will be graded on creativity, the strength of their argument, grammar, style, and format.

**Late Assignments**

Late assignments that are not previously discussed with the Instructor will receive a 5% penalty for each business day that it is late, up to a maximum of 50%. Assignments not submitted within two weeks of the due date will not be accepted without prior permission. If you think you will be unable to hand in an assignment on time, students are expected to contact the instructor as soon as possible. Resubmissions will not be accepted.
Grading

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

- **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.

Course Schedule

This is a draft course schedule that is subject to change. A final draft of the course schedule will be made available to students on OWL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 | January 9: Introduction  
January 11: NO TUTORIAL |
| Week 2 | January 16: Lecture  
January 18: NO TUTORIAL |
| Week 3 | January 23: Lecture  
January 25: Tutorial #1 |
| Week 4 | January 30: Group Presentation #1  
February 1: Tutorial #2 |
| Week 5 | February 6: Group Presentation #2  
February 8: Work on Paper Proposal |
| Week 6 | February 13: Group Presentation #3  
February 15: Paper Proposal Due |
| Week 7 | February 20: READING WEEK  
February 22: READING WEEK |
| Week 8 | February 27: Group Presentation #4  
March 1: Tutorial #3 |
| Week 9 | March 6: Group Presentation #5  
March 8: NO TUTORIAL |
| Week 10 | March 13: Group Presentation #6  
March 15: Tutorial #4 |
| Week 11 | March 20: Group Presentation #7  
March 22: Work on Final Paper |
| Week 12 | March 27: Group Presentation #8  
March 29: Tutorial #5 |
| Week 13 | April 3: Group Presentation #9  
April 5: Work on Final Paper |
| Week 14 | April 10: Final Papers due at beginning of class |
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.

English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades

Visit the website http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf

Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html
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: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

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/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/
2. Student Health – http://www.uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html
3. Registrar’s Office -- http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/
4. Ombuds Office -- http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/