School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 4990F
Independent Study in the Health Sciences

1.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Readings and discussion on, or field experience in, selected topics in Health Sciences agreed upon through consultation between the student and the supervising professor

Prerequisites: Enrolment in the fourth year of an Honors Specialization module in the School of Health Studies with a minimum average of 75%

Note regarding 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.

2.0 COURSE INFORMATION
Instructor: Dr. Andrew Johnson
Arthur and Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building, Room 330
ajohnson@uwo.ca

Office Hours: by appointment
Course Website: https://owl.uwo.ca

Times and Location of Lectures:
Online (except where noted in Section 6.0)

3.1 TEXTBOOKS
There are no required readings of any kind for this course, other than readings that are provided by your practicum supervisor. Also, in preparing your practicum paper, you are expected to develop an appropriate set of background readings that will extend the resources provided by the practicum supervisor.

4.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES
The purpose of this course is to provide the student with practical experience with research under the close supervision of a faculty mentor. The student will have the opportunity to rigorously apply previously learned material from the Health Science program to a current health issue or problem.

5.1 EVALUATION
Learning Contract 2018.09.27 10%
TCPS 2 Ethics Certificate 2018.11.01 5%
ISRF Abstract 2018.11.22 5%
ISRF Presentation 2018.11.30 10%
Independent Study Project 2018.12.07 70%
Learning Contract. You are responsible for submitting a learning contract to the course coordinator that indicates the learning goals and objectives for your independent study, created in consultation with your faculty mentor. This assignment must be submitted through the assignment tool in OWL, **no later than 4:30pm on 2018.09.27.** This learning contract will be, on average, approximately 500 words in length (approximately 2 double-spaced pages). This is designed to be a brief description of the plan of action for the developing project. It is possible that the objectives may change over the course of the independent study – this is perfectly understandable, and any such changes should be documented by you and approved by your faculty mentor. It is not necessary to re-submit the learning contract should your plans change during the course of the independent study.

TCPS 2 Ethics Certificate. On your own, you will complete the TCPS 2 Core tutorial (https://tcps2core.ca), and submit your ethics certificate (online, through the assignment tool in OWL), as proof of completion of the tutorial, **no later than 4:30pm on 2018.11.01.**

ISRF Abstract. You will create an abstract for the presentation that you will be giving at the Independent Study Research Forum on November 30th, and submit this to the course coordinator (through the assignment tool in OWL), **no later than 4:30pm on 2018.11.22.** The abstract is to be no more than 250 words in length, and should be formatted as an “unstructured abstract.” Further details as to how to structure an abstract will be provided within the lecture videos presented online.

ISRF Presentation. You will present your project summary to an assembly of your peers, as well as faculty and staff from across the Faculty of Health Sciences. **Presentations will be given between 12:30pm and 4:00pm on Friday, November 30th, 2018. You are expected to be present for all presentations, unless you have compelling (and documented) reasons for your absence.**

Independent Study Project. The nature of the project and its specifications are organized and agreed to, between the student and his or her faculty mentor. The project in its entirety is to be submitted online **no later than 4:30pm on 2018.12.07.** The paper should be approximately 2,000 words in length, not including references, title page, and abstract. It should be double-spaced, and formatted using a font size no smaller than 12 points. You are encouraged to use subheadings to identify the main sections of the paper. Referencing and formatting of the paper should conform to the most recent version of APA guidelines.

**NOTE:** 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)

5.2 **LATE POLICY**
All assignments are due on the date and at the time indicated. Late assignments are penalized at a rate of 1% for each full hour after the deadline. No assignments will be accepted more than four days late.

6.0 **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Delivery Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018.09.06</td>
<td>Welcome and orientation to the course</td>
<td>in-person, 4:30pm to 5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018.09.13</td>
<td>Asking good questions</td>
<td>online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018.09.20</td>
<td>Putting together an effective learning contract</td>
<td>online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018.09.27</td>
<td>Accessing library resources</td>
<td>online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018.10.04</td>
<td>Electronic reference management</td>
<td>online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018.10.11</td>
<td>no content this week – Fall reading week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018.10.18</td>
<td>Independent work on TCPS 2 core 2 tutorial</td>
<td>online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018.10.25</td>
<td>Independent work on TCPS 2 core 2 tutorial</td>
<td>online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018.11.01</td>
<td>Effective use of social media</td>
<td>online</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018.11.08</td>
<td>Putting together an effective abstract</td>
<td>online</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018.11.15</td>
<td>no content this week</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2018.11.22</td>
<td>How to give an effective oral presentation</td>
<td>online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018.11.30</td>
<td>Independent Study Research Forum</td>
<td>in-person, 12:30pm to 4:00pm</td>
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7.1 GENERAL COURSE NOTES

Student Code of Conduct
You are expected to comply with the Code of Student Conduct at all times within the classroom, and when dealing with members of the instructional team. The purpose of this Code 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.

Course Website
This course is a totally “paperless” course, and as such the course website will be your sole source for lecture overheads, readings, and course information (including this course outline). Due to privacy regulations, grades will only be provided to you through OWL – I will not, under any circumstance, convey grades via email, or over the phone.

Email
I am happy to answer your questions via email. You must, however, use your UWO email address for all correspondence regarding this course. Because the University ‘anti-spam’ programs often reject email from Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, and other public email addresses, there is no guarantee that I will receive your emails if you send them from a public email program – or from any off-campus server, when sending email using any method other than the university’s webmail system. That said, I will do my best to answer your emails promptly. Please try to limit your questions to administrative matters only – detailed questions on course content are best: (a) raised during (or immediately after) lectures, (b) asked during office hours, or (c) posted to the online discussion forum.

Grade Adjustments
Final grades in this course will be taken to the closest integer (i.e., I will “round off” decimals). Exam grades will be calculated out of 100% to one decimal place. I will not, under any circumstances, “bump up” your grade (i.e., to facilitate professional school applications etc.). This includes grades that end in a “9”.

Policy on Electronic Devices
During Exams: Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any of the following electronic devices during ANY of the tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations: cellphones, smart phones, smart watches, smart glasses, audio players or recorders of any sort, video cameras, video games, DVD players, televisions, laptop/notebook/netbook computers, flashlights or laser pointers.

During Lectures and Tutorials: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

7.2 POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.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:
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.

7.3 POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and you 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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

7.4 HEALTH AND WELLNESS
As part of a successful undergraduate experience at Western, we encourage you to make your health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre as part of their registration fees. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page (http://www.music.uwo.ca/), or the McIntosh Gallery (http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/). Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/. If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html.

7.5 SUPPORT SERVICES
There are various support services around campus, and these include (but are not limited to):
- Student Development Centre -- http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/
- Student Health -- http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html
- Registrar’s Office -- http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/
- Ombuds Office -- http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/

8.0 PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS
In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If you are not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Director of the School of Health Studies. If you consider this response to be unsatisfactory, you may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. If this response is unsatisfactory, you may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.