

HS 2801a — Research Methods in Health Sciences
School of Health Studies
The University of Western Ontario
Fall 2010

1. Course Information

Lectures – 2 hours

Fridays, 9:30 to 11:30, SSC 2050

Tutorials (Optional) – 1 hour

Some Wednesdays (i.e., Oct 6, Oct 13, Nov 3, Nov 10), 10:30 to 11:30, NS 1

Prerequisite

Health Sciences 1000 is a prerequisite for this course. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol 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. Instructor Information

Instructor

Christopher Lee, PhD
Room 210, Labatt Health Sciences Building
email: cjlee@uwo.ca

Office Hours

Thursdays, 11:30 to 1:30

3. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the design of health sciences research, providing students with knowledge relevant to the planning and evaluation of research in both laboratory and applied settings. As detailed below, your grade in this course is based on two assignments and a final exam.

4. Course Materials

There is no textbook to be purchased for the course. After each class, I will post a PDF copy of my slides in order that you have exact copies of the data, formulas, and any special figures or tables used in class.

5. Evaluation

Your grade in this course is based on two assignments and a final exam. Assignment one is worth 20 percent, assignment two is worth 30 percent, and the final exam is worth 50 percent of your final grade in the course.

Assignment 1 is due at the start of class on Friday, October 15. Assignment 2 is due at the start of class on Friday, November 12. Late assignments are not accepted. The final exam will be scheduled during the official examination period.

Assignments

Each assignment will consist of some calculation questions and some thought questions. You can get assistance with the calculation questions during the optional tutorials; the thought questions are for you to consider on your own. There is a two-week set of tutorials scheduled for the Assignment 1, and there is another two-week set of tutorials scheduled for Assignment 2. See course schedule, below.

Missed Assignments

If you are unable to submit an assignment because of illness (see below), the percentage associated with the missed assignment will be evenly distributed between the other assignment and the final exam. For instance, if you were unable to submit the first assignment (worth 20 percent) because of illness, the second assignment would be worth 40 percent (rather than 30 percent) and the final exam would be worth 60 percent (rather than 50 percent).

Illness

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Academic accommodation 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.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the main office (Room 222, HSB), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”) A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required when documentation is provided by a family physician or walk-in clinic. The SMC is available for download at: www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Additional information on the Senate Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness is available on the Student Services homepage (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).

6. Academic 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 Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

7. Course Schedule

Week	Date	Class Topic	Note
1	F, Sept 17	Course Overview	
2	F, Sept 24	Varieties of Knowing	
3	F, Oct 1	Descriptive Statistics 1	
	W, Oct 6		Tutorial — Assignment 1
4	F, Oct 8	Descriptive Statistics 2	
	W, Oct 13		Tutorial — Assignment 1
5	F, Oct 15	Measurement 1	Assignment 1 Due
6	F, Oct 22	Measurement 2	
7	F, Oct 29	Narrative Analysis 1	
	W, Nov 3		Tutorial — Assignment 2
8	F, Nov 5	Narrative Analysis 2	
	W, Nov 10		Tutorial — Assignment 2
9	F, Nov 12	Philosophy of Science 1	Assignment 2 Due
10	F, Nov 19	Philosophy of Science 2	
11	F, Nov 26	Clinical Expertise	
12	F, Dec 3	Sample Exam Questions	