

**The University of Western Ontario
Faculty of Health Sciences**

**Health Sciences 3010F
Introduction to Rural Communities**

Course Director: Cathie Brown
TA:
Time: Tuesdays, 3:30 – 6:30 PM
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Term: Winter 2010
Email:
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Prerequisite: Health Sciences 2610F/G and 2450A/B

Note: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you will 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.

1 - Course Description

This course provides an introduction to rural communities and how they differ from urban communities. Rural and urban comparisons will be introduced from sociological, infrastructure, political, and health services perspectives.

2 - Course Objectives

The learning objectives of this course are for students to:

- Understand rural communities from a variety of perspectives, and how rural communities are defined and how they define themselves
- Understand the health of the rural population
- Understand how the social determinants of health affect people living in rural communities
- Understand the most important issues in rural health care and the policies and approaches that can address these issues successfully
- Understand the roles of various levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal to deliver service programs to rural communities

3 - Texts

There is no required textbook to purchase. Links to all the course materials are provided in this course outline. You are responsible for accessing the materials.

4 – Course conduct

It is expected that students will be considerate of their colleagues and the instructor. Students are reminded to keep any noise and disruption to an absolute minimum in class, and to use email judiciously and not frivolously. Cell phone, MSN, email or internet use in the classroom is strictly prohibited.

5 - Course Evaluation

Students' academic performance will be assessed in the following ways:

A. 10 short summaries	20%	Weekly
B. Mid Term Exam	40%	October 26 th
C. Final Exam	40 %	To be scheduled between Dec10 and 21

A. 10 short summaries (20%)

Students are expected to prepare for every class by reading the week-by-week materials. For any 10 of the classes in the term (one per week) write a **150-200 word** summary of what you have learned from the readings. Reports must be submitted **prior** to discussion in class.

Each report should contain:

- A. 2 or 3 important concepts in the readings
- B. 2 or 3 important statistics in the readings
- C. 1 or 2 significant questions the readings prompted you to think about

You do not need to reference the content but the summaries must be typed (12 point font) with **your name and the date at the top of the page**.

A hard copy of each of your 10 summaries is **due by 3:30 pm in the class the material will be discussed**. No summaries will be accepted after 3:30 pm, and no electronic copies of your summary will be accepted.

Each summary will be graded on a **pass/fail basis**, with each summary worth 2.0%, totalling up to 20% of the final grade. The graded summaries will be returned, and **students should keep the graded copy**. These weekly summaries, along with your own notes from the readings and from the weekly discussions in class, should be a help as you prepare for the exams.

B. Mid Term examination (40%)

There will be a mid-term examination covering the material in the course to date. It will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions.

C. Final examination (40%)

There will be a final examination covering the material in the course after the mid term. It will consist of multiple choice.

6 - General rules and guidelines for assignments

Misrepresenting the work of others as your own constitutes academic dishonesty and is a punishable offence in the University. Suspected academic dishonesty will be investigated and, if found, disciplinary action will be taken. Make sure you know what plagiarism is and what your obligations are.

Review [Beware! Says Who? Avoiding Plagiarism](#), a York University guide to plagiarism, based upon similar pamphlets from the University of Ottawa. The guide contains very helpful discussions of what plagiarism is, what leads students to plagiarize, good practices to help prevent plagiarism, and sources that do not have to be referenced. The guide also provides examples of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable.

TurnItIn: In addition to handing in a hard copy of the short summaries, **you may be required** to submit them to TurnItIn.com through WebCT by the same date each assignment is due. Turnitin.com provides information to instructors about textual similarity of a student's paper with other papers and internet sources. Turnitin.com uses 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>).

Grading of assignments

Written assignments will be graded using the following criteria:

1. Content
 - a. All three elements present
2. Style
 - a. Good sentence structure and fluent writing, correct spelling and grammar
 - b. Proper length
 - c. Clear, easy to follow the train of thought

If a paper does not meet these criteria, it will fail.

Writing programs

Effective writing skills are essential for completing the assignments in this course. If you need assistance, visit Western's Writing Support Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>.

Note taking

Being effective at taking notes from your reading and from lectures is important: it enhances your long-term understanding of the course material (which may pay off later in your work) and increases your academic performance, including in the final examination. Some good tips for note-taking can be found on University of Winnipeg Professor Christopher Leo's blog for February 12, 2006:

<http://blog.uwinnipeg.ca/ChristopherLeo/archives/2006/02/>

(Scroll down to the section called TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL NOTE-TAKING)

Lateness and lateness penalties

You are expected to complete and turn your assignments in on time.

Here is an excerpt from the University's policy on accommodating medical illness indicating the process and your responsibilities if you are seriously affected by illness:

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.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s).

Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. 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.")

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 from Family Physicians and Walk-In Clinics

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>. Hard copies are available from Academic Counselling in the Faculties.

Documentation from Student Health Services

Students obtaining documentation from Student Health Services should sign a "release of information."

This form authorizes Student Health Services to provide information to the student's home Faculty. Release of information forms are available from, and can be arranged through, the student's home Faculty Academic Counselling service.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that his/her ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

7 – Weekly schedule and required reading

The following four readings will be referred to throughout the course. Various chapters will be identified on the pertinent week.

- 1 Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. 2006. *Understanding freefall: The challenge of the rural poor*. Available at:
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/1/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/agri-e/rep-e/repintdec06-e.pdf>.
- 2 Executive Summary, Chapter 1 and Chapter 4 of Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. 2008. *Beyond freefall: halting rural poverty*. Available at
<http://www.torc.on.ca/documents/SenateReportonHaltingRuralPoverty.pdf>
- 3 Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2006. *How healthy are rural Canadians?* Available at
http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/products/rural_canadians_2006_report_e.pdf
- 4 Chapter 7 of the Romanow Report: *Rural and Remote Communities*. 2002. Available at
<http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection/CP32-85-2002E.pdf>

Week 1, September 14, 2010 – Introduction

Week 2, September 21, 2010 – Place & Health

“Rural Phase Out”, April 21, 2004, Solomon, L, and letters to the Editor, National Post, Available at:

http://www.ruralcouncil.ca/rural_phase_out_040421.htm

“Exurban myths: how our rural identity is sucking the life out of cities”, Anna Bowness. This Magazine. May-June 2007. Available at:

http://www.thismagazine.ca/issues/2007/05/cont_exurbanmyths.php

Week 3, September 28, 2010 – What Makes it Rural

Kevin Wasko and Brenda O’Neill, “The urban/suburban/rural cleavage in Canadian political opinion”. Available at <http://64.26.169.230:65222/cpsa-acsp/papers-2007/Wasko-ONeill.pdf>

Week 4, October 5, 2010 – Economic Factors

Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of *How healthy are rural Canadians?*

“Trends in the prices of rurality”, by Ray Bollman and Marc Prud’homme, Rural and Small Town Analysis Bulletin Volume 6, No. 7, March 2006 Statistics Canada. Available at
<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/21-006-XIE2005007.pdf>

“The Two Faces of Farming”, by David Sparling and Pamela Laughland, Institute of Agri-Food Policy Innovation, Guelph, Ontario September 2006. Available at <http://www.iafpi.ca/pdfs/TwoFacesOfFarming.pdf>

Week 5, October 12, 2010 – Health Human Resources in Rural

Overview and Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 “Physician services in rural and northern Ontario”, Tepper, J. D., Schultz, S. E., Rothwell, D. M., and Chan, B. T. B. 2006, ICES investigative report. Toronto, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. Access at http://www.ices.on.ca/file/Physician_Services_in_Rural_and_Northern_Ontario.pdf

“Dr. John has gone: assessing health professionals’ contribution to remote rural community sustainability in the UK” Farmer, J., Lauder, W., Richards, H., Sharkey, S. (2003). *Social Science & Medicine*, 57, 673-686. Available at: http://www.sciencedirect.com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca:2048/science?_ob=MIimg&_imagekey=B6VBF-4811SP3-1-B&_cdi=5925&_user=940030&_orig=search&_coverDate=08%2F31%2F2003&_sk=999429995&_view=c&_wchp=dGLbVzb-zSkzV&_md5=a411fb63030885c64f543a417808df25&_ie=/sdarticle.pdf

Week 6, October 19, 2010 - Critical Mass & Social Cohesion

Chapter 4.1 through to and including 4.3.3 of *How healthy are rural Canadians?*

Social engagement and civic participation; Are rural and small town populations really at an advantage? by Martin Turcotte, Rural and Small Towns Canada Analysis Bulletin, Volume 6, No. 4, Statistics Canada June 2005. Available at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/21-006-XIE2005004.pdf>

“*The Influence of Education on Civic Engagement: Differences Across Canada’s Rural-Urban Spectrum*”, Neil Rothwell and Martin Turcotte, Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Volume 7, No. 1 July 2006, Statistics Canada. Available at <http://dsp-psd.tpsgc.gc.ca/Collection/Statcan/21-006-X/21-006-XIE2006001.pdf>

Week 7, October 26, 2010

MID TERM EXAM

Week 8, November 2, 2010 Local Government, Populations

Local Government in Canada: Organization & Basic Institutions, Jay Makarenko, Nov 29, 2007 at

<http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/local-government-canada-organization-basic-institutions#introduction>

SKIM: Association of Municipalities of Ontario, website information on Municipal Government

<http://www.yourlocalgovernment.com/ylg/newmuni.html> and
<http://www.yourlocalgovernment.com/ylg/muniont.html>

Environments for Health, State Government of Victoria, Australia, Department of Human Services, September 2001. Available at:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/localgov/mphpfr/downloads/mphpf.pdf>

The Health Status of Canada's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples

(A background paper to accompany **Health Care Renewal in Canada: Accelerating Change**), Health Council of Canada, January 2005, Read the Executive Summary, pgs 3 – 8, and Chapter 6 Determinants of Health. Available at:

<http://healthcouncilcanada.ca.c9.previewyoursite.com/docs/papers/2005/BkgrdHealthyCdnsENG.pdf>

Week 9, November 9, 2010 Sociological Factors

Profile of New Brunswick High School Students: Their Reading Skills, Research Program on Post-Secondary Education and Training Opportunities in New Brunswick, Report #2 February 27, 2007, Tomasz Gluszynski, Learning Policy Directorate, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, In collaboration with, Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour and Department of Education. Available at:

http://www.pisa.gc.ca/profile_report.pdf

Lessons in Learning: The Rural-Urban Gap in Education, Canadian Council on Learning March, 2006. Available at:

http://www.ccl-cca.ca/pdfs/LessonsInLearning/10-03_01_06E.pdf

“The Hidden Face of Poverty in Perth County” A report by the Perth County Social Planning Council, June 2006. Available at

http://www.perthcountyspc.ca/reports/hidden_face_of_poverty.pdf

SKIM: Farm Safety Website : <http://www.farmsafety.ca/>

Week 10, November 16, 2010 - Sociological Factors Pt 2,

Chapter 2, “Defining rural poverty” and Chapter 3, “Trends shaping rural Canada” of Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. *Understanding freefall: the challenge of the rural poor.*

“Rural and Small Town Bulletin – The Health of Rural Canadians” Stats Can, 2003 Self evaluation of health by rural youth

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/21-006-XIE2003003.pdf>

The Rural Perspective on Continuity of Care: Pathways to Care for Children with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders, Boydell, Katherine & Pong, Raymond, et al, CHSRF May 2004

http://www.chsrf.ca/final_research/ogc/pdf/boydell_final.pdf

Week 11, November 23, 2010 – US & European Experience & Approaches

“Rural America at a Glance” 2007 Edition, United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Economic Information Bulletin, Number 31. October 2007. Available at

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB31/EIB31.pdf>

Whitener, Parker, T. “Policy options for a changing rural America. 2007”. Available at

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/May07SpecialIssue/PDF/Policy.pdf>

Assuring Health Coverage for Rural People through Health Reform, Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPI), October 30, 2009 Available at:

http://www.rupri.org/Forms/Health_ReformSummary_Oct09.pdf

“Fact sheet: The EU rural development policy 2007-2013” European Union. 2007.

Available at

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/fact/rurdev2007/en_2007.pdf

‘Rural Development 2007-2013’ By Tom Edwards, prepared for the Scottish Executive, 29 November 2006. Available at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-06/SB06-102.pdf>

Week 12, November 30, 2010 - Local Experiences & Approaches

Chapter 4.4 to and including 4.5 of *How healthy are rural Canadians?*

“Health Status and Behaviours of Canada’s Youth: a Rural/Urban Comparison”, by Verna Mitura and Ray Bollman, Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Volume 5, No. 3, March 2004, Statistics Canada. Available at

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/21-006-XIE2003003.pdf>

“Rural Health Study in Waterloo Region, Final Report” 2004 prepared by Barbara Zupko, Judy Shearer and Kristina Vermeulen, Health Determinants, Planning and Evaluation, Region of Waterloo Public Health. Available at

[http://chd.region.waterloo.on.ca/web/health.nsf/0/5EAF2D58611DF828852571490058D225/\\$file/RuralReport_04.pdf?openelement](http://chd.region.waterloo.on.ca/web/health.nsf/0/5EAF2D58611DF828852571490058D225/$file/RuralReport_04.pdf?openelement)

“Where rural and urban meet: looking at the quality of life in the Township of North Dumfries”, prepared by the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries, March 2006. Access at

<http://www.socialplanningcouncilcnd.org/pdfs/publications/NDBLUEPAPERFINAL.pdf>

Week 13, December 7, 2010 – Last thoughts

“The CANADIAN Rural Partnership” (Department of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada) at http://www.rural.gc.ca/home_e.phtml

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. *Ontario’s Rural Plan February 2007 Update*. Available at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/ruralplan07/downloads/ruralplan07.pdf>

Policy Statement on Rural Issues, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, March 2009. Available at: <http://www.fcm.ca/CMFiles/rural1SJW-3262008-597.pdf>