

The University of Western Ontario

Health Sciences 3091b-002

Winter 2011

Class time: Wednesday 10:30-1:30
Location: SEB-2099
Instructor: Lauren Barr
Contact Info: lbarr2@uwo.ca
Office Hours: by appointment – on campus Monday to Wednesday
Location: SSC 5319

Course Description:

This course will examine the social elements of health and illness, with an emphasis on the nature of social interactions that occur within institutions and between patients and professionals. We will develop theoretical models for understanding health sociologically, with a view to examine the current systematic limitations and ultimately how health may be better promoted in Canada. We will spend time discussing the extent to which the social determinants of health rather than individual choice determine health outcomes. Finally, we will turn our attention to the practice of health care delivery. Our focus will be on the interconnected nature of professional groups and the challenges of working as a health care professional in Canada's uniquely publically funded health care system. Throughout the course we will investigate the *human* dynamics of health organizations and try to capture a vision for the future of health care in Canada.

Course Objectives:

- to understand the political, social, and economic environment for health delivery in Canada
- to understand the complicated nature of relationships within the health care institution
- to analyze and identify some of the possibilities for improving patient experience, preventative health and working relationships within health care in Canada

Prerequisites:

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, and does not have written special permission from his or her Dean to enroll in the course, the University reserves the right to cancel the student's registration in the course. This decision may not be appealed. The normal financial and academic penalties will apply to a student who is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Student Evaluation:

1. Mid Term examination:	30%
2. Group Presentation	15%
3. Participation (including in-class, attendance, on-line discussions)	10%
4. Journal of Reflection	15 %
5. Final Examination	30%

Assessments:

Participation: 10% *Ongoing, mark will be returned before the final exam*

This course is intended to be interactive, thus its success will depend on an active and informed discussion by everyone in the class. This is a significant part of your mark for a reason. Your ongoing support of the course material, involvement in the discussions and online debates are required to create an environment of critical academic reflection.

All students are expected to attend classes as outlined in the schedule and to come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that particular week. Grades will be assessed base on the quality of the student intervention.

Journal of Reflection: 15% *Due the Final Day of Class*

You will be required to choose a topic related to our course and write 6 journal entries on this topic throughout the course. You will write your thoughts, opinions and assumptions in an introductory journal entry. You will then add to the journal through the course as you learn more and find more topics that connect into your initial topic and opinion. You will be expected to find outside sources, examples or experiences that tie into this topic. At the completion of this topic, I should be able to see the growth, questioning, and ultimate development of your final conclusions on the chosen topic. I will give you a few examples of topics you can use, or you can suggest your own topic of interest.

Mid term Examination: 30% February 16

The midterm exam is scheduled *in-class*. It may consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions in order to test the students understanding of the fundamental health concepts.

Group Presentation 15%

Each group (of no more than 4 students), will chose a topic related to health or professional relationships. You will be expected to do a 20 minutes presentation and lead the class in discussion for a **total of 30 minutes**. Each group is expected to provide the class with study material. The objective of the presentations is to challenge the dominant way of thinking about your topic. You want to force students to move outside the comfort zone and really analyze why society is the way that it is and for what purpose. You will be given time in class to work on these presentations, so please ensure that you are present.

Final Exam: 30%

This exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer and / or essay questions.

Academic Information:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and a proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.

Plagiarism is a major academic offence. (see scholastic offence policy in the Western Academic calendar) the University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic format for plagiarism checking.

Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day that it is late. There will be no exceptions except for extenuating circumstances such as compassionate reasons or incapacitating illness.

Students who for medical or compassionate reasons cannot write a scheduled test or examination must obtain permission for a special exam from the Academic Counsellor in the BHSc Office.