

The UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

Department of Health Sciences

Winter 2011

Health Sciences 3290b (Section 001): Special Topics in Health Promotion – A Critical Examination of Obesity

Class Time & Place: Wednesday 230-530; B&GS-0165

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Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the issues surrounding obesity in Western countries. A critical perspective is adopted focusing on the magnitude of the obesity “epidemic,” its causes, implications, and potential solutions.

Prerequisite(s)

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean (see your academic counselor) 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.

Required Textbooks and Assigned Readings

Gard, Michael. 2011. *The End of the Obesity Epidemic*. Routledge: New York.

Oliver, J. Eric. 2006. *Fat Politics: The Real Story Behind America’s Obesity Epidemic*. Oxford: New York.

In addition to the textbook readings, you will be required to read handouts and articles which will be available online.

Videos and guest speakers are an integral part of the learning experience in this course. You will be responsible for the material associated with these modes of learning on your exams.

Grading Scheme

25% Mid Term Exam

20% Assignment

55% Final Exam

Mid Term Exam – 25% (TBA)

Since the goal of this course is to teach you to think critically about obesity, you will be expected to be able to apply concepts-merely memorizing the material is not recommended. Performance on this exam will be a good indicator of your strengths/weaknesses, and I strongly encourage you to adapt and seek help as required before the final exam.

Assignment - 20% (TBA)

Students are expected to complete a group assignment. It will be composed of a combination of written work and a presentation to the class. Late assignments will be penalized at 10% per day. Detailed instructions for the assignment will be provided shortly.

Final Exam – 55% (TBA)

This exam will be cumulative. There will be no surprises as the content and format will follow what we have discussed in class and you have seen on the mid-term exam.

The final exam schedule will be posted on the Office of the Registrar website:

<http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/Undergrad.cfm>

Official Information

If, on medical or compassionate grounds, you are unable to complete any assignments on time, write exams or attend tutorials, you should see your academic counselor as soon as possible to seek academic accommodation.

Note on Medical Documentation (New Institutional Guidelines)

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 all work 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 Dean of Health Sciences office 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 [<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/general/privacy.pdf>].

Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office (Academic Counselor) 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 Counseling 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 Counseling 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 Academic Counselors. Release of information forms are available from, and can be arranged through, the student's home Faculty Academic Counseling service.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centers 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.

Plagiarism

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).”

Plagiarism Checking

“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 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>).”

Scantron Exams

“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.”