

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
LONDON CANADA

Faculty of Health Science  
Special Topics in Evidence Based Practice in Rehabilitation

## 1.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

## 2.0 COURSE INFORMATION

*Lecturer* Peter Theodosopoulos, MSc., DPT, CertMDT  
[ptheodo@uwo.ca](mailto:ptheodo@uwo.ca)

*Office Hours:* By appointment

*Course Website:* <https://webct.uwo.ca>

*Times and Location of Lectures:* Thursday: 7:00-10:00pm  
HSB-11

## 3.0 TEXTBOOK

## 4.0 COURSE DESCRIPTION

HS4090 provides students with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to conscientiously, explicitly, and judiciously use current best evidence in making clinical decisions. This course focuses on the components of evidence-based practice, formulation answerable clinical questions, and accessing and evaluating professional information as presented in journal articles, abstracts, internet sites, and textbooks.

As well, students will develop algorithms for making and analyzing clinical decisions based on available professional literature.

The course is offered in lecture/seminar format to facilitate students ability to critically analyze clinical literature and integrate conclusions into patient case management

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define evidence based practice and critique its use
2. Use the PICO system to develop answerable clinical questions
3. Access and critically evaluate information from a wide range of electronic and paper sources.
4. Critically evaluate published studies and abstracts related to rehab practice, research, and education
5. Perform clinical decision-making, including clinical reasoning, clinical judgment and begin to demonstrate reflective practice and identify the principles of clinical decision making in the delivery of patient/client care.

Database Websites:

PubMed (<http://www.pubmed.gov>)

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (<http://www.cochrane.org>)

National Guidelines Clearing House (<http://www.guidelines.gov>)

Evidence-Based Practice Websites

Center for Evidence-Based Medicine (<http://www.cebm.utoronto.ca/>)

Canadian Center for Health Evidence (<http://www.cche.net/>)

## 5.0 EVALUATION:

Nuts/Bolts Quiz	5%	Grade Distribution:
PICO Assignment	5%	A = 80-100
Presentation 1	20%	B = 70-79
Presentation 2	20%	C = 60-69
Participation	10%	D = 50-59
Final Exam	40%	F = Below 50

## 6.0 COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

*Course Website* : The course website should be your primary source of information regarding course content and procedures (outside of lecture).

*Bulletin Board /Lecture* : You are expected to attend every class as all material, including videos and guest speakers will be part of the course evaluation

*Assignments* : All assignments must be physically handed in at the beginning of class. Emailed assignments, or assignments turned into the health science main office, will be discarded. Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason (i.e. you will receive zero for the assignment).

## 7.0 LECTURE AND TOPIC SCHEDULE

*Changes to this lecture schedule will be announced in class and on the course website. All lecture overheads will be available for download (from course website), one week prior to lecture, and so it is expected that you will obtain printouts of the overheads prior to attending the lecture. Additional assigned readings will be uploaded to the course website one week in advance.*

DATE	WEEK	TOPIC
Sept 16	1	Orientation What is Evidence Based Practice (Myths/Concepts) EBP characteristics
Sept 23	2	PICO activities/ <b>Case Study Assignment (5%)</b> Study Designs (RCTs, Cohort etc)
Sept 30	3	<b>QUIZ – Nuts and Bolts of Research (5%)</b> Evidence in the Literature Guidelines for Therapy Projects(Abstract Screening)
Oct 7	4	Marissa Mitchell - Literature Searching Strategies (Taylor Lib) Fibromyalgia and Pool Therapy (Making Sense of Literature)
Oct 14	5	<b>Presentation A – Therapy (20%)</b>
Oct 21	6	<b>Presentation B – Therapy</b>
Oct 28	7	Outcome Measures/Professional Communication Diagnosis
Nov 4	8	Diagnosis Guidelines for Diagnosis Projects
Nov 11	9	Therapy and Harm
Nov 18	10	Prognosis
Nov 25	11	<b>Presentations A – Diagnosis (20%)</b>
Dec 2	12	<b>Presentations B – Diagnosis</b>
Dec	13	<b>FINAL EXAM (40%)</b>

## **8.0 POLICY REGARDING 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.

For further information, please review the link below.

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

## **9.0 POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offenses. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offenses in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offenses include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. In writing scholarly papers, students must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid 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.

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/scholoff.pdf>

## **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING ARE SERIOUS SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES**

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>).

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.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offense include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

## **10.0 PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty in which the course of program was taken. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean, may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.

## **11.0 Use of Electronic Devices:**

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.