

**The University of Western Ontario  
School of Health Studies**

**Health Sciences HS4400b  
Advanced Health Policy**

**January 2013**

Instructor: Deborah Fitzsimmons PhD

Email: [dfitzi4@uwo.ca](mailto:dfitzi4@uwo.ca)

Office Room Number: HSB 215

Office Hours: Email for appointment

**Date and time:** Wednesdays 15:30 – 17:30 HSB 35

Materials will be posted online by the instructor for review before class.

**Prerequisite Checking**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean 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.

**Pre-requisites:** Health Sciences 3400a/b

---

**Course Information**

**Course description:** This course will examine contemporary international health issues that can impact health care policy. These may include such diverse topics as alcohol policies, patient choice and provider competition, private sector management of public health care services, telehealth, sugar taxes, out-of-pocket expenses for health care, aging and mental health policies to name but a few. Students will also have the opportunity to write one opinion paper on a policy that interests them personally.

This is a highly participatory course that makes extensive use of web-based resources, including podcasts and online articles, to bring policy to life. Students are also made aware of ways in which they may have an opportunity to help shape health care policies of the future.

**Course objectives:**

The learning objectives of this course are for students to:

- Understand the role of government and the non- governmental organizations in the formulation, development and implementation of health policy;
- Understand the political, social, and economic environment for health policy analysis.

**Class format:**

Each week there will be a class of a two hour duration using a combination of traditional didactic teaching (lectures), real-world examples, workshop activities and guest speakers. Students are expected to prepare for each class by having obtained and read all material identified for that class. Attendance in class is expected and will support the highly participatory nature of the course.

In alternate weeks of the course additional online material will be provided via OWL and students will be expected to have obtained and read all of this material as it will form the basis of part of their assessment as described below.

**Course Materials**

**Texts:**

Making Health Policy: A Critical Introduction by Andy Alaszewski and Patrick Brown published by Wiley.

Additional online course materials will be provided on OWL and students are responsible for accessing and obtaining the material.

**Evaluation**

Student’s academic performance will be assessed in the following ways:

A. Six Bi-weekly opinion papers	10% per paper	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 6 <sup>th</sup> February 27 <sup>th</sup> February 12 <sup>th</sup> March 26 <sup>th</sup> March 9 <sup>th</sup> April
B. Final examination	40%	TBD

### **Bi-weekly Opinion Papers (10% per paper)**

These papers will analyse a provided case study, white paper or published evidence and students will be asked to provide a considered opinion on the health policy under review. The specific topic and reading material for the assignment will be posted on OWL. Students will have the opportunity to discuss the material in class prior to writing and submitting their papers.

The papers will be limited to a ***strict two page*** limit (excluding title pages, references and appendices, although the latter should be limited and excessive use will be penalised).

Students will submit their papers in hard copy in class in on the specified dates.

The paper must meet the following requirements:

- Title page with:
  - Title of assignment
  - Student name
  - Student number
  - Instructor's name
  - Course number
  - Date of submission
- Printed on 8.5" by 11" paper
- Microsoft Word format
- 12 point font
- 1" margins
- Spell checked

### **Final examination (40%)**

There will be a final examination (scheduled by the Registrar) lasting a maximum of two hours covering all material discussed in the course. The format of the examination will be a combination of short written answers and essays.

### ***Grading criteria:***

The grading criteria for this course are based upon university-wide grading criteria approved by the Senate:

A+	90 – 100%	Exceptional
A	80 – 90%	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70 – 79%	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60 – 69%	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50 - 59%	Fair work, minimally acceptable
E	Below 50%	Fail

To pass the course students are required to achieve an overall average grade of 50% for the course.

**Late assignments:**

Late written submissions for the assignment will be penalized **10% for each part or full day** past the due date (including weekends) except where there are valid extenuating circumstances. Further details of the process required for seeking accommodation for late assignments can be found in the section 'Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences' below.

Please note that, 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 for any request for accommodation shall be submitted by the student, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student's Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222. It will be the Dean's office that will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. Given the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy, instructors may not collect medical documentation. Should accommodation be denied, the student may appeal to the Academic Counselling Office of their Faculty for consideration.

**Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices, such as cellular phones and pagers, must be turned off during class. Laptops may be used for note taking during lectures, but using them to access email or the internet during class is not permitted. No electronic devices shall be permitted during any tests or examinations. Unauthorised webcam, video, photographic or voice recordings of the instructor, teaching assistants or guest speakers is **strictly prohibited**. Discovery of such occurrences may lead to dismissal from the class or course and confiscation of the cellular phone, pager, video, webcam, laptop, photographic or voice recording equipment.

Unruly behaviour directed at the course instructor, teaching assistants, guest speakers or other students will not be tolerated.

---

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS****Student Code of Conduct**

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>.

## **English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades**

Visit the website <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/english.pdf>.

## **Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences**

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

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.

***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>.

Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is worth 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed.

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 for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student's Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222.

## **Scholastic 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 website: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Additionally,

1. 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>).

2. 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.

### **Support Services**

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>