

Western University
School of Health Studies
Health Sciences HS4400b
Advanced Health Policy

January 2014

Instructor: Shannon L Sibbald, PhD
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Office Room Number: HSB339
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-2pm (or email for appointment)

Date and time: Mondays 9:30am – 11:30am HSB 240
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 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 and case-based learning 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.

A one hour tutorial time has been identified on the class timetable. This time will serve two functions. In alternate weeks of the course groups will use this time to meet in 'learning teams' to prepare for class discussion on Mondays. The discussion will most often be focused on a specific case or topic area. Student will be expected to come to class the following Monday prepared to present group learnings and questions. Learning teams will be assigned at the start of the course.

When learning teams are not meeting, this time will be made available for private study. Should it be necessary, your professor reserves the right to hold a tutorial session during this class contact time. If required these sessions will be announced both in class and on WebCT.

Course Materials**Text:**

Buse, Kent, May, Nicholas, & Walt, Gill, *Making Health Policy*, second edition. McGraw-Hill 2012. ISBN: 9780335246342

Other course readings:

Information on weekly readings for this course will be available on Sakai and updated regularly. Students are responsible for required readings each week. Readings will be available electronically through the Internet or library internet holdings, in some cases course material will be put on reserve in the library. Students are responsible for acquiring and reading material before class.

A draft reading list will be available at the start of the course, and will be updated regularly on Sakai. In general you can expect 2-3 readings, and/or additional website/links to explore each week.

Throughout the course we will make use of 'case-based learning' and students will be required to purchase and download cases. Cases cost between \$4-6 and are available through Ivey Publishing on-line.

Evaluation

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

A. Two opinion papers	20% per paper	27 rd January 3 rd March
B. Participation	20%	In class throughout term
C. Final Report: 48-hour report format	40%	Released April 7, 8:00am Due April 8, 11:59pm

A. Opinion Papers (20% 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

B. Participation (20%)

In class participation is a great way of learning and ensuring your involvement in your learning. This method of evaluation is used widely in the Ivey School of Business and is also being used this year in the Schulich Interfaculty Program of Public Health (1).

Your instructor and your peers will evaluate your contribution to the discussion in each class. You are expected to be present and prepared for every class; ready to share your views in the classroom discussion. In addition to learning the material, it is expected that you will assist the learning of your classmates. The class contribution grade recognizes your contribution to the learning of your classmates. It may not be possible for all students to contribute in every class. In grading class contribution, you will be assessed according to the extent to which you have established a meaningful presence in the classroom, over the course of the semester. Contribution has aspects of both quantity and quality. Repeating comments without adding additional value is not positively assessed.

In order for this process to work well, it is important that you sit in your assigned seat and bring your name card with you to every class.

Category Components of in-class contribution

3 Excellent Comments add substantial value to the discussion.

2 Significant Comments add value to the discussion, beyond case facts. There is evidence of analysis rather than just the expression of opinion. Student demonstrates clear grasp of case material. Information presented is relevant to the discussion.

1 Good Comments advance the flow of the discussion.

0 Neutral Statement of facts; relevance not made clear. Present, listening, but silent. Absent from class.

-1 Unsatisfactory, adds no additional value. Lack of preparation for class discussion; failure to listen. Defensive or disruptive behaviour. Inappropriate use of laptop, cell phone, iPod, blackberry or other devices.

Each class, your in-class contribution will be marked by the course professor and by two of your peers. For the class in which you take this evaluator role, you will receive a contribution mark of 2 (Significant). You are allowed, and encouraged, to contribute in every class – and you should not hold back your contributions during the class for which you are assigned an evaluation role. Evaluators are chosen by random assignment by your professor.

When your turn comes, you will receive a seating chart at the beginning of the class. Please keep track of contributions and, at the end of the class, take 5 minutes to assign each participant a score from -1 to 4 according to the grading chart above (for your convenience, this will be copied on the back of the seating chart). Please clearly write down who was absent that day. If you assign a score of -1 please document your observations to justify the score. Most importantly, please return your marked contribution sheet to your professor at the end of the class. Please do not forget to sign and date the grade sheet before you submit it.

The scores peer evaluators assign are confidential. The professor compares the average of the peer evaluators' score to his/her evaluation for each class and assigns the appropriate score for each respective class.

¹ *Special thanks and acknowledgement to my colleagues at Ivey, Haggarty and Compeau and at Schulich, Thind and Janzen Le Ber for helping with this method.*

C. Final Report (40%)

There will be a no official final examination; instead students will complete a report covering all material discussed in the course. The format of the examination will be a 48-hour report or 'take home exam' format. More information on this will be available on Sakai and during the course.

Draft Schedule:

Topic	Class	Date	Lesson/Plan
Overview of Health Policy	1	6-Jan	
	LT	10-Jan	first meeting with team
Communicating in Policy	2	13-Jan	
	LT	17-Jan	prep for case
Case Learning	3	20-Jan	
	LT	24-Jan	no meeting
Tools for Policy Making	4	27-Jan	Paper#1 Due
	LT	31-Jan	prep for case
Case Learning	5	3-Feb	
	LT	7-Jan	no meeting
Guest Speaker	6	10-Feb	
	LT	14-Jan	no meeting
Reading Week		17	
Policy and Ethics	7	24	
	LT	28	prep for case
Case Learning	8	3-Mar	Paper#2 Due
	LT	7-Jan	no meeting
Evaluation	9	10	
	LT	14	prep for case
Case Learning	10	17	
	LT	21	no meeting
Special Topics	11	24	
	LT	28	no meeting
Guest Speaker	12	31	
	LT		prep for case
	13	7	Final Report

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 **25% 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

Personal electronic devices, such as cellular phones and pagers, must be turned off during class. Laptops may be used for ‘course specific tasks’ during lectures (i.e., research and note taking), 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. Webcam, video, photographic or voice recordings of the instructor, teaching assistants or guest speakers without permission is 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

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 .

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/>