



Health Sciences 2801a — *Research Methods in Health Sciences*

School of Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences

September to December 2015

## 1. Course Information

This course is an introduction to the methods used in health sciences research. Although formulas are given and calculations are presented, the principal orientation of the course is conceptual rather than mathematical. Your grade in this course is based on three quizzes and a final exam.

Classes – 2 hours

Fridays, 10:30 to 12:30, SSC 2050

Labs – I am in class during this time to answer questions about calculations and readings.

Fridays, 9:30 to 10:30, SSC 2050

### *Prerequisite Checking*

You should consult the Western Academic Calendar ([www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca)) for the requisites of this course. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol 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.

## 2. Instructor Information

Christopher Lee, PhD

email: [cjlee@uwo.ca](mailto:cjlee@uwo.ca)

Office: Room 221, Labatt Health Sciences Building

Office Hours: lab time (Fridays, 9:30 to 10:30, SSC 2050); otherwise, by appointment.

## 3. Course Materials

There is no textbook to be purchased for this course. I have prepared a set of PDF readings to accompany the classes, and these readings are posted in OWL. Each reading provides a short introduction to the topic and includes a series of cases that we will work through in class.

## 4. Evaluation

Your grade in this course is based on three online quizzes and a final exam. Each quiz is worth 12 percent of your course grade, and the final exam is worth 64 percent of your course grade.

The quizzes are one-hour in length, and they are administered online using OWL— see the course schedule section for dates. Each quiz will be open for a 30-hour period (Wednesday 5:00 pm to Thursday 11:00 pm). You can login to OWL at any time during this period to complete the quiz. The first quiz covers readings 1 and 2, the second quiz covers readings 1 to 4, and the third quiz covers readings 1 to 6. The final exam covers readings 1 to 7. The quizzes are *open-book* in the sense that you have access to your notes and the readings while completing the quiz. **You should complete the quizzes on you own, without collaboration with other students.** The quizzes are a valuable sign of which particular things need more of your attention as you prepare for the exam—but, this is true *only if* you complete the quizzes on you own.

If you are unable to complete a quiz during the scheduled time as a result of medical illness or non-medical reasons, you must consult an academic counsellor to obtain academic accommodation. Once academic accommodation is obtained, the percentage associated with the missed quiz will be evenly distributed among the other quizzes and the final exam. For example, if you were unable to complete the first quiz because of illness, the second quiz would be worth 16 percent (i.e., 12% + 4%), the third quiz would be worth 16 percent (i.e., 12% + 4%), and the final exam would be worth 68 percent (i.e., 64% + 4%).

If you miss the final exam due to medical illness or non-medical reasons, you must consult an academic counsellor to obtain academic accommodation to write a make-up exam.

## 5. 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>.

## 6. English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades

The University policy on English proficiency is available at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/english.pdf>.

## 7. Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

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 more than 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 — Health Studies students should contact the School of Health Studies main office (222 HSB).

#### 8. 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).

#### 9. Support Services

Support services are offered on campus through the Student Development Centre, Student Health Services, the Office of the Registrar, and the Office of the Ombudsperson.

#### 10. Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Online Quizzes (Open)</b>
1	Sep 11	Course Overview	
2	Sep 18	Thematic Analysis & Repertory Grid (Reading 1)	
3	Sep 25	Thematic Analysis & Repertory Grid (Reading 1)	
4	Oct 2	Scores (Reading 2)	
5	Oct 9	Simple Regression (Reading 3)	Quiz 1 (Oct 7 to Oct 8)
6	Oct 16	Simple Regression (Reading 3)	
7	Oct 23	Measurement (Reading 4)	
	Oct 30	No Class	
8	Nov 6	Internal Consistency (Reading 5)	Quiz 2 (Nov 4 to Nov 5)
9	Nov 13	Retest Consistency & Bias (Reading 6)	
10	Nov 20	What is this Activity Called Science? (Reading 7)	Quiz 3 (Nov 18 to Nov 19)
11	Nov 27	What is this Activity Called Science? (Reading 7)	
12	Dec 4	Exam Overview	