

The University of Western Ontario  
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 3050B

Health Related Quality of Life

Jan-April 2017

Instructor: Dr. Tara Mantler  
Email: tara.mantler@uwo.ca  
Office Room Number: TC205  
Office Hours: By appointment only

Date/Time: Tuesday 2:30-5:30pm

### **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.

---

### **Course Information**

The course provides information on the construct, measurement, and definition of health related quality of life in health and disease and is directed toward understanding the multidimensional nature of quality of life as a theoretical construct and its application to health and wellness, illness, and disease.

### **Course Objectives/Learning Objective**

Through the course lectures, readings, participation in interactive discussions and presentations, students will meet the following objectives:

- Gain an understanding of various definitions of health related quality of life
- Understand and apply measurement of health related quality of life constructs
- Examine the intersection of health related quality of life with various states of health and illness
- Examine the interaction between health related quality of life and determinants of health

This course will also offer students training the following *transferable* skills:

- Critical thinking skills
- Research and synthesis skills (particularly with academic (peer-reviewed) literature)
- Oral presentation skills
- Time management skills

Students are expected to prepare for the course by completing required readings prior to class. The grade for this course will be comprised of a midterm examination, group presentation, and final examination. The group presentation will consist of the exploration of a health issue and its relation to health related quality of life for a specific population. Finally, the midterm and final examinations will consist of multiple choice questions from both readings and lecture.

### **Textbook & Reading List**

There is no required textbook for the course as readings will largely focus on scholarly articles and related resources. Required readings can be accessed electronically through Sakai and the Western library or through the web links provided (where applicable).

### **Method of Instruction**

Our time together in this course will be interactive and reflective. The topics will be discussed using thought provoking and engaging questions, examples and case studies. I encourage you to share stories from your experiences to enhance the learning of the topics. Our classes will be a combination of lecture and tutorial, where you will work with your fellow classmates to apply the concepts taught in class.

### **Method and Schedule of Student Evaluation**

Your grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

| Evaluation         | Percentage            | Due Date         | Course Material Included                      |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| Midterm            | 30%                   | Feb 14           | All lecture and reading material until Feb 14 |
| Group Presentation | 30% (25%, 2.5%, 2.5%) | March 14, 21, 28 | N/A   |
| Final Examination  | 40%                   | TBA              | All lecture and reading material              |

NOTE: Non-medical absences from participation days will result in zero for that day.

## Lecture and Reading Schedule

| Week | Date     | Topic                                 |
|------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1    | Jan 10   | Introduction<br>Defining HRQoL        |
| 2    | Jan 17   | Theories and Models                   |
| 3    | Jan 24   | Measurement: What Counts?             |
| 4    | Jan 31   | Measurement pt 2                      |
| 5    | Feb 7    | Health and Illness                    |
| 6    | Feb 14   | Midterm                               |
| 7    | Feb 28   | Health and Illness pt 2               |
| 8    | Mar 7    | SDoH: Another Dimension<br>Group work |
| 9    | Mar 14   | Presentations                         |
| 10   | March 21 | Presentations                         |
| 11   | March 28 | Presentations                         |
| 12   | April 4  | Trends and Analysis                   |

### **Group Presentation**

---

**% of final grade:** 30

**Day assigned:** Jan 7

**Due:** March 14, 21, 28

**Purpose:** The group presentation will consist of the exploration of a health issue and the relation to health related quality of life for a specific population

**Requirements:** Each group will choose a health issue related to a specific Canadian demographic. The instructor must approve each topic by the end of class three. Groups will consist of 4 members and will create a presentation lasting 30-40 minutes.

This assignment must include:

- Clear outline of the health issue and demographic
  - Define your demographic with relevant data
  - Define your health issue with relevant data
  - Your chosen health issue should be grounded in synthesized evidence
- Prevalence data

- Why we should care about the specific health problem- build your case
- Should create a compelling case as to why this health issue is a priority for your demographic
- Exploration of relationship of the health issue in relation to quality of life
  - Description of the measurement, impact, and intersection with other dimensions
  - Discussion of how health related quality of life is impacted over time and over the course of the illness
- Discussion of the current interventions to address health related quality of life (if available) as well as the impact on the individual from a HRQoL perspective
- A minimum of 10 scholarly, peer-reviewed articles

**Grading Rubric:**

| Section                         | Criteria  | Points (/50) |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Health Issue Demographic        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clearly identify health issue</li> <li>● Clearly identify demographic</li> <li>● Prevalence data presented that makes the 'audience' care about the issue and demographic</li> <li>● Breadth of synthesis</li> </ul>   | 10           |
| Exploration of the Relationship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identification of the measurement tools</li> <li>● Classification and critique of measurement tools</li> <li>● Impact of HRQoL on the individual over the course of the illness</li> <li>● Impact of HRQoL over time</li> <li>● Depiction of trajectory based on synthesis of evidence</li> <li>● Discussion of intervention of HRQoL with other dimensions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Determinants of health</li> <li>○ Other illness</li> <li>○ Aspects of health and wellness</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Use of evidence supported by journal articles</li> <li>● Presentation in a logical and cogent fashion</li> </ul> | 20           |
| Solution and recommendations    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identification and discussion of current and potential interventions</li> <li>● Were current solutions discussed in terms of impact on HRQoL? Individually? Holistically?</li> <li>● Were potential solutions identified- based on shortcomings of current solutions</li> </ul>  | 15           |
| Organization and Delivery       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Did the presentation flow</li> <li>● Was the presentation free from spelling and grammar errors</li> <li>● Were a minimum of 10 journal articles used and properly referenced</li> <li>● Was information presented clearly and succinctly</li> </ul>   | 5            |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did all group members participate</li> <li>• Was the presentation engaging and easy to follow</li> </ul> |  |
|--|---|--|

### **Midterm and Final Examination**

**% of final grade: 30 (midterm) and 45 (final)**

**Day:** Feb 14 and During the Final exam period

#### **Format**

The midterm and final exam will be multiple choice. More information regarding number of questions and material covered will be presented in class.

### **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices in service of learning will be permitted in the classroom; however, cell-phone use is prohibited. Moreover, electronic devices will not be allowed during examinations.

### **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/pdf/board/code.pdf>.

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

Visit the website [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/english.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf)

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

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html>

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: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

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. 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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

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.

### **Support Services**

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

Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Student Health – <http://www.uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html>

Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>