

HS 4990F

Independent Study in Health Sciences

The prerequisite for this course is registration in fourth year of an Honors module in the School of Health Studies and a modular or cumulative average of 75%. In addition, this course requires the student to seek out a faculty supervisor and develop a project of mutual interest. This is followed by an application to the Undergraduate Chair of the School of Health Studies for permission to enroll. If you do not have this prerequisite (or permission to take the course), you are not eligible to take this course and must drop it immediately.

HS 4990F: September to December, 2017

COURSE OUTLINE

This course has a unique design for each student-supervisor arrangement. The array of topics and method of study or analysis varies widely and allows a student to experience novel, in depth learning of a particular topic.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with practical experience with research under the close supervision of a faculty mentor. The student will have the opportunity to rigorously apply previously learning material from the Health Science program to a current health issue or problem.

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

COURSE COORDINATOR

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Health Sciences Building, room 330
ajohnson@uwo.ca

COURSE SEMINAR HOUR

Experiential learning courses in the School of Health Studies share a one-hour seminar scheduled for:

Thursdays 4:30 – 5:20 PM in HSB 9

This seminar begins on September 14th, 2017. There may not be a seminar scheduled for each week, but you are encouraged to attend and participate in all scheduled sessions. Details regarding the seminar dates and topics may be found at owl.uwo.ca. This is your opportunity to ask questions about course requirements, or raise particular concerns or issues that you may have that are specific to your project.

COURSE CONTACT

Course E-mail address: use the web site mail for course related questions. Anything of a sensitive nature may be addressed to the instructor's personal e-mail (ajohnson@uwo.ca). Some external email services may encounter SPAM blocking or filtering. It is essential that you use your UWO account, otherwise, important and timely information may not get to you if you are using another email service.

Web site address: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>, Log onto OWL using your user name and password. You must be registered in this course to have access to the site and you must have an account established with UWO. All course-related materials are delivered through OWL.

EVALUATIONS

A majority of the evaluation structure of the course is agreed upon by the student and faculty supervisor and can vary from project to project. It is strongly recommended that there be a learning contract and evaluation structure agreed upon by both the student and supervisor prior to commencing the independent study.

Components of the evaluation can derive from research accomplished, data management and analysis, literature searching, written reviews and commentary, poster or oral presentations or other forms of scientific communication.

The School of Health Studies also sponsors an *Independent Study Research Forum* at the end of each term where students have the opportunity to present their findings.

GRADING:	Independent Study Project Friday December 8th 2017	70%	The nature of the project and its specifications are organized and agreed to between student and supervisor. The project in its entirety is due no later than the last day of class for the term.
	Project Proposal Thursday, October 5th 2017	15%	Students will prepare a brief of their proposed project including rationale or working hypothesis, background and any findings or collected data.
	Independent Study Research Forum – abstract Monday, November 27th 2017	5%	An abstract summarizing the work accomplished during the term in advance of the ISRF.
	Independent Study Research Forum Friday December 1st 2017 12:30 – 4:00 PM Location TBD	10%	Students will present project summaries to their peers. The course coordinator, invited guests/supervisors and student peers will evaluate the presentations.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

This is an opportunity to share with peers also involved with an independent study, the nature of your project. The following are expectations for each proposal:

- A one-page (maximum) summary of the project describing the working hypothesis or aim, rationale/background and anticipated findings
 - The summary page will follow the template provided for the assignment
 - One-inch margins all around
 - No less than a 12-point font; font style is at the discretion of the student
 - Line-spacing set at 1.5

More information on the rubric and template can be found on OWL.

INDEPENDENT STUDY RESEARCH FORUM

The Independent Study Research Forum (ISRF) offers a venue for students to showcase their work during the term. The ISRF will take place on **Friday December 1st 2017**. The forum is designed to mirror a platform presentation as one may see at a research conference. The ISRF has the following elements:

- An abstract due prior to the forum (due: **Monday, November 27th 2017**). See OWL for details on abstract preparation
- Presentation of no longer than 12 minutes—this is a firm time limit. This is followed by 3 minutes for question from the audience
- The room is equipped with a data projector and desktop computer. There is also a port should you bring your laptop.

The course coordinator will organize the schedule of presentations and all students are expected to attend.

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT

The key element of the course is the project that is conducted under the guidance of a faculty supervisor. The project makes up 70% of the course grade and will be evaluated by the supervisor. The project is due by the last day of class (**December 8th 2017**) to the supervisor AND SUBMITTED TO OWL via the assignment tab. Students and supervisors are strongly encouraged to develop a learning contract, report template and evaluation scheme so that the ultimate product of the course is understood by all parties.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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

ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS OR NON-MEDICAL ABSENCES

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/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 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

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/>
2. Student Health – <http://www.uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>