

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
LONDON, CANADA**

**School of Health Studies  
Health Sciences 1002B – Social Determinants of Health  
Spring 2019**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces key social determinants of health, and orients students to viewing health in relation to social factors, equity, and social justice. Students will be introduced to basic terms, concepts, and measurements related to health, public health, population health, and health inequalities. **Antirequisite:** The former Health Sciences 1000.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Name and describe key concepts related to those aspects of social determinants of health covered in the course.
- Discuss and paraphrase key concepts through participation in class discussions.
- Demonstrate knowledge gained and level of comprehension achieved through memorization and recall of key concepts covered in the course.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Marnie Wedlake, PhD, RP  
Email: [mwedlak@uwo.ca](mailto:mwedlak@uwo.ca) **(Please contact me using this email address only.)**  
Office: **HSB 220**

**Day & Time of Lectures:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 to 4:30pm  
**(90% Class attendance is required to pass the course.)**

**Location of Lectures:** HSB 35

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays from 10:30am to 12:00pm (May 14<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup>, inclusive)

**Course Website:** <https://owl.uwo.ca>

**Textbook:** Davidson, A. (2019). Social Determinants of Health: A Comparative Approach, Second Edition. Don Mills: ON: Oxford University Press.

## **AN IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING EMAIL COMMUNICATION**

I welcome inquiries sent by email, and I will do my best to reply as quickly as time allows. However, if the information being requested can be found in our class lecture notes and/or anywhere on our course OWL site, I will not reply to your email.

## **LEARNING ENVIROMENT**

This course experience will function according to the assumption that successful learning happens in environments where learning is co-created by the instructor and the students.

As the instructor, I will endeavour to provide students with classes that are optimally engaging, motivating, and interesting. In return, I will expect students to attend all classes, and to contribute to the collaborative nature of the learning experience through their active participation in discussions, by completing the assigned readings, and by offering constructive feedback as will be deemed useful to the overall learning experience. Ideally, we will co-create a learning environment that welcomes and encourages group dialogues that are dynamic, passionate, and open-minded. That is, a learning experience that is vital and engaging for all.

Reading during a lecture, using cell phones/texting, not turning off cell phone ringers, the disturbing consumption of food or drink, littering the classroom, the use of iPods, Facebook, Twitter, and other activities which may impede the ability of you or other students to learn are unacceptable behaviours.

As a collective, we will create a learning environment that is supported by civility and mutual respect. In doing so, we will set the stage for a healthy and stimulating intellectual forum. Finally, if you are having problems with any aspect of the course, please contact me. I am committed to your learning experience, I am approachable, and I welcome your comments, your constructive criticisms and, of course, your questions.

## **EVALUATION**

Evaluation for this course consists of 3 examinations: 2 mid-term exams and 1 final exam.

**Every student must complete all 3 examinations.**

**Each of the 2 mid-term exams is worth 30% of the final grade.**

**The final exam is worth 40% of the final grade.**

## **EXAM SCHEDULE:**

The **first mid-term exam** will take place (during class time) on **Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019**.

The **second mid-term exam** will take place (during class time) on **Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup> 2019**.

The **third and final exam** will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

**\*\*\*Location for the mid-term exams may be different than our regular classroom, and will be announced in class and on OWL prior to the exams.\*\*\***

## **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING REGARDING EXAMS:**

- **Mid-term examinations are not cumulative. However, the final exam is cumulative.**
- 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.
- Makeup exams will be different from those originally scheduled, and may include written and/or short answer questions.
- Examinable materials may include any content covered/presented in classes (lecture content, videos, etc), readings from the textbook, and any other assigned readings.

**LIST OF COURSE TOPICS & READINGS:*****Additional readings may be assigned at any time.***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>REQUIRED READING</b>
Tues May 14 <sup>th</sup>	CHAPTER 1 – Thinking About Individual and Population Health
Thurs May 16 <sup>th</sup>	CHAPTER 2 – Health Care Services as a Health Determinant and Health Research Methods
Tues May 21 <sup>st</sup>	CHAPTER 3 – Population Health and Social Epidemiology
Thurs May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mid-term Exam #1 – NO REQUIRED READINGS
Tues May 28 <sup>th</sup>	CHAPTER 4 – Income, Inequality, Wealth, and Health
Thurs May 30 <sup>th</sup>	CHAPTER 5 – Childhood and the Transition to Adulthood
Tues June 4 <sup>th</sup>	CHAPTER 6 – Gender and Health
Thurs June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mid-term Exam #2 – NO REQUIRED READINGS
Tues June 11 <sup>th</sup>	CHAPTER 7 – Social Support, Social Capital, Social Exclusion, and Racism
Thurs June 13 <sup>th</sup>	CHAPTERS 8 & 10 – Health of Indigenous Peoples <u>AND</u> Housing and Neighbourhood
Tues June 18 <sup>th</sup>	CHAPTERS 9 & 13 – Employment, Working Conditions, and Health <u>AND</u> Social Patterning of Behaviour
Thurs June 20 <sup>th</sup>	CHAPTERS 11 & 12 – Food, Food Insecurity, Nutrition, Obesity, and Health <u>AND</u> The Environment and Health

## GENERAL COURSE NOTES

### Regarding the Use of Plagiarism Checking Software:

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>)

### On the Use of Electronic Devices:

**During Exams:** Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any of the following electronic devices during ANY of the tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations: cellphones, smart phones, smart watches, smart glasses, audio players or recorders of any sort, video cameras, video games, DVD players, televisions, laptop/notebook/netbook computers, flashlights or laser pointers.

**During Lectures and Tutorials:** Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.**

### Statement on Academic 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 Web site: [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)

### Accommodation for illness:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.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: [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.

### **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/>

### **On Health and Wellness:**

As part of a successful undergraduate experience at Western, we encourage you to make your health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre as part of their registration fees. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page (<http://www.music.uwo.ca/>), or the McIntosh Gallery (<http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>). Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **School of Health Studies Grade Policy:**

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 68% and 72%. In the event that the course average falls outside this range, a constant may be added (or subtracted) from each student's grade, by the instructor, to bring the class average in line with school policy.

The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:

- A+ 90-100 - One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level.
- A 80-89 - Superior work that 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.
- F below 50 - Fail.