Western University
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 3240B
Special Topics in Health Promotion: Environmental Health

Winter 2019 - Instructor: Dr. Denise Grafton

Lectures: Monday, 3:30pm-5:30pm & Thursday, 4:30pm-5:30pm
Location: SH-2317
Email: dgrafton@uwo.ca Phone: x64443
Office Hours: TBA in OWL

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. For further information regarding prerequisites or anti-requisites please visit www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca.

Prerequisites: Health Sciences 2250A/B
Antirequisites: The former Health Sciences 3290A/B if taken in 2015, 2016 or 2019

Course Description:

Health promotion has an important role to play in addressing the complex array of environmental threats that are affecting human health and the wellbeing of our planet. Starting from this insight, this course looks at the interface between the fields of environmental health and health promotion to explore the theory and practice of environmental health promotion in its current context. Howze et al. define environmental health promotion as “any planned process employing comprehensive health promotion approaches to assess, correct, control, and prevent those factors in the environment that can potentially harm the health and quality of life of present and future generations” (2004).

The course introduces students to key concepts and theories used in the practice of environmental health promotion. It explores contemporary strategies to address issues such as air pollution, water quality and scarcity, weak food systems, vector-borne illness, disaster preparedness, environmental injustice and climate change using the tools of health promotion. Given the globalized scope of the topic, cases are drawn from a variety of local, national and international settings. The intervention strategies studied utilize diverse forms of health promotion practice, including health communication and education, community capacity building, advocacy and policy making. The course employs a range of learning tools, including lectures, facilitated discussion and multimedia resources. Students will also have the opportunity to engage directly with expert practitioners in the field through a community-engaged learning project done in collaboration with environmental organizations in London. Health care
systems have undergone profound change in the last decade due to changing demographics, funding constraints, new and emerging technologies and a significant rise in chronic diseases.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand key concepts and theories relevant to environmental health promotion.
2. To build students’ knowledge around the use of diverse health promotion strategies (e.g. health education, community capacity building) to address environmental threats.
3. To learn about how environmental health interventions are designed, implemented and evaluated through participation in a community engaged learning project

Course Materials
Materials for this course consist of weekly readings posted on OWL.

Class Schedule and Format:
Classes will be a mixture of lecture, on-line discussion and guest speakers where appropriate. Students are responsible for assigned readings and should be prepared to discuss them in class. Attendance and participation in class is expected. Students are encouraged to be actively engaged in class discussions and group participation as undergraduates because the “real world” makes these demands on them routinely. Most weeks will have some classes devoted to a lecture and another to individual and/or group discussion. Students are encouraged to bring a computer/tablet to class because there will be information retrieval exercises during the class time.

Course Materials:
There is no required textbook for this course. However, there will be some mandatory readings/articles posted on OWL. A draft reading list will be available at the start of the course, and will be updated regularly on OWL. In general, you can expect 2-3 readings, and/or additional website/links to explore each week.

Evaluation:
Mid-term Examination (in class) – 20%
Online Tutorial (Weekly topic discussions in OWL) – 15%
Community Engaged Learning Project – 35%: The 35% portion of the grade assessment assigned for this part of the course will be further broken down into smaller sub-components depending on whether or not students select a CEL or alternate project. Please see OWL for further information.
Final Exam – 30%. Date & time will be determined by the Registrar’s office.

Important Dates:
First day of class: January 7, 2019
Mid-term Reflection due: February 28, 2019
Winter Reading week: February 18-22, 2019
Mid-term Examination: February 11, 2019
CEL final project due date for all students (CEL or non-CEL): April 4, 2019 - presentations, where applicable, will take place in the two weeks preceding the final due date; also includes a final report.
a) **Mid-term examination (30%) – Monday, February 11, 2019**

There will be a mid-term examination in class on **Monday, February 11**, lasting 100 minutes & covering all material discussed in the course (including online material provided) up to and including February 7. The format of the examination will be a combination of multiple choice questions, short written answers and application questions.

In the event that the mid-term exam is missed for medical reasons or extenuating circumstances, appropriate supporting documentation MUST BE provided. If appropriate documentation is provided, a makeup examination will be scheduled within one week of the scheduled exam.

b) **Community Engaged Learning (CEL) Project (35% - Groups of approximately 5 students)**

The purpose of this assignment is to provide students with the opportunity to partner directly with London-based organizations in order to apply their learning related to environmental health promotion. Students will work in teams and will be linked directly to partners to produce one agreed upon deliverable (e.g. a Public Service Announcement, a grant application, etc.). Teams will be expected to share their experience and learning with the rest of the class through a group presentation near the end of the term. Some time for groups to meet and work on their projects will be provided in class throughout the semester. The 35% portion of the grade assessment assigned for this part of the course will be further broken down into smaller sub-components. A more detailed description will be explained in class and will also be available in the Assignments folder on OWL in early September.

Students who do not wish to participate in the CEL project will be offered an alternate individual or group assignment. **The final assignment will be due on Thursday, April 4, 2019.**

c) **Final Exam (30%) – TBA Scheduled by Registrar**

There will be a final examination lasting a maximum of two hours covering all material discussed in the course. The format of the examination will be a combination of multiple choice questions and short written answers. The final exam date will be set by the university in the final exam period in April 2019. The final exam will cover material primarily from the 2nd half of the course.

**Grading scheme:**
Below you will find the university-wide scale that has been approved by the Western University Senate. Marks will not be rounded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Superior work that is clearly above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Competent work, meeting requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>Fair work, minimally acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between **74% and 78%**. 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.
Policies:

Late assignments
This class is evaluated primarily through examinations, which must not be missed unless in the case of a medical condition, family emergency, or other unforeseen circumstances. A note from your Physician indicating the nature of your condition must be submitted to the School of Health Studies Main Office, and only upon receipt of such a letter will a new examination be scheduled. Visit Western’s Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm for further details. With respect to the written assignments, late assignments will not be accepted past the due dates without a Doctor’s note. If the student presents a Doctor’s note the extended deadline will be 1 week after original due date. Late assignments without documentation will be accepted, however a late penalty will be applied: 5% for the first day and 10% for every subsequent day; assignments will not be accepted one week after the due date.

Electronic devices

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.

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.

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/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 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/
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. To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html.

**Rounding of Grades (for example, bumping a 79 to 80%)**

This is a practice some students request. This practice will not occur here. Assignments have been carefully designed to be clear and fair. Please do not ask the Course Instructor or Teaching Assistants to do this for you.

**Intellectual Property**

The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments, and any materials posted to OWL, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content to third-party websites violates an instructor’s intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant University Policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with Western University.