

HS3400A

Health Policy

University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies

Fall 2018
Course Weight: 0.50

COURSE INFO

LECTURE TIMES	Mondays, 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM Thursdays, 2:30 PM - 4:20 PM
LOCATION	TBD

TEACHING TEAM

PROFESSOR	Maxwell Smith, PhD Assistant Professor
EMAIL	TBD
PHONE	TBD
OFFICE	HSB221
OFFICE HOURS	TBD
TEACHING ASSISTANTS	TBD

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an invitation to examine the processes, outcomes, and implementation of health policy, with a specific focus on the Canadian context. In addition to exploring health policy issues currently affecting Canadians, key topics to be addressed include the processes through which health policies are developed, the various actors involved in the health policy process, the different arenas wherein health policy is created, and the various policy instruments used to meet health policy objectives.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- a. Define key terms and explain core concepts related to health policy;
- b. Identify key actors and recognize power dynamics involved in the health policy process;
- c. Describe the policy process;
- d. Critically reflect upon contemporary health policy issues affecting Canadians.

PREREQUISITES

Minimum of 60% [mandatory] in each of Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B.

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.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Required text

Buse, K, Mays N, & Walt G. *Making Health Policy*, 2nd edition (UK: McGraw-Hill Open University Press, 2012)

This text will be made available in the Western Bookstore, and one copy will be on reserve in the Taylor Library. Other required readings, links, or resources will be posted on OWL on a weekly basis. These resources may include relevant peer-reviewed articles, health policy reports, media reports, websites, and videos. These resources will complement the weekly topic and textbook readings. Students are responsible for all assigned readings.

LECTURES

This course will consist primarily of lectures and case studies of health policy issues currently affecting Canadians. Attendance and participation in lectures is expected. The following is a tentative timetable of lecture topics, which are subject to modification. Students are expected to come to class prepared (i.e., having read all assigned materials). This course does not have tutorials.

Week	Dates	Topic
1	Sept. 6	Introduction: What is health policy?
2	Sept. 11 & 13	Health systems and health governance in Canada
3	Sept. 18 & 20	Identifying policy problems and getting them on the agenda
4	Sept. 25 & 27	Choosing policy instruments
5	Oct. 2 & 4	Policy analysis, implementation, and evaluation
6	Oct. 8-12	Reading week – No classes
7	Oct. 16 & 18	Midterm preparation (Oct. 16) and Midterm (Oct. 18)
8	Oct. 23 & 25	Theories of policy change
9	Oct. 30 & Nov. 1	Policy actors
10	Nov. 6 & 8	Evidence-based health policy
11	Nov. 13 & 15	Public health policy & healthy public policy
12	Nov. 20 & 22	Comparative perspectives on health policy
13	Nov. 27 & 29	Political and ethical dimensions of health policy
14	Dec. 4 & 6	Contemporary issues and challenges in health policy

Recording prohibited

Although you are welcome to use a computer during lectures, 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.**

The instructor will endeavour to make any modified PowerPoint slides or other materials used in class available by the beginning of each lecture. Presentations from any guest speakers may not always be shared.

Clickers

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. For those classes in which we use this technology, it is your responsibility to ensure that the device is activated and functional. You must speak with the course instructor immediately if you have any concerns about whether or not your clicker is malfunctioning.

You must use only your own clicker. For all components of this course in which clicker records are used to compute a portion of the grade:

- The use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence;
- The possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offense

Respectful engagement and interaction

Disruptive, rude, or otherwise inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated in class or online.

Please take time to familiarize yourself with your student code of conduct:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

	Date	Percent of final grade
Midterm exam	October 18 (in-class)	30%
Team-based policy brief assignment	November 29 (by 11:59pm)	30%
Final exam	To be determined, exam period: Dec. 10-21	40%

Midterm exam

The midterm will occur in class on October 18th, and students will have the entire class to complete the exam. All materials covered up to and including October 16th will be testable. The midterm exam may consist of multiple choice questions, true and false questions, and short answer questions.

There will be no make-up for a missed midterm exam. If you miss the midterm exam due to personal or medical reasons, you must contact the academic counsellors to seek accommodation. Missing the midterm with approved accommodation will result in a grade of zero.

Team-based policy brief assignment

Students in groups of around 5-6 (depending on course enrollment) will be assigned a health policy topic or issue and will have to complete a policy brief on that topic or issue. Further instructions will be provided in class. This assignment will be due by 11:59pm on November 29th. A grading rubric will be made available to students prior to the due date of the assignment.

Final exam

The final exam will be scheduled during the December examination period (December 10-21). The date, time, and location will be confirmed and announced in class and posted on OWL. The format of the exam may include multiple choice questions, true or false questions, and short answer questions. The exam will cover **all** lecture materials and assigned readings, including those before the midterm.

Extensions and late assignments

In order to be fair to your peers and the teaching team, assignments submitted after the deadline which did not receive a written, pre-arranged approval for extension by the instructor will be penalized by 5 percentage points per day (including Saturday and Sunday) and will only be accepted up to seven days after the due date/time. If you think you will be unable to hand in an assignment on time, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Grading

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

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 72-76. 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.

Plagiarism and other 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 Web site: 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.

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.

English proficiency for the assignment of grades

Please see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf

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. 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.

Accommodation

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

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/>

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

All questions should be posted on OWL forums. Forums will be used regularly as a ‘first line’ for asking questions about course content. Students can expect questions to be answered by the instructor or teaching assistants within 48 hours, with the exception of weekends. Students are also encouraged to respond to questions to facilitate learning and share their own insights on course content. The instructor may delete posts that are deemed to be inappropriate.

Any other issues/queries (non-content related/personal) should be done through messages/email via OWL; please do not send email to @uwo email account – these will not be answered. If you send a message to the instructor or TA that is better suited for the forum discussion, you will be asked to post your question there so that all students can benefit from the Q&A and also allow for more peer-to-peer discussion.

In all of the above communication tools and any time you are interacting on our shared OWL website, it is expected that you will use proper grammar and punctuation. You are also expected to respect your peers, teaching assistants, and instructor in any discussion/forum or communication.

KEY DATES

First class	September 6
Reading week (no classes)	October 9-12
Midterm	October 18
Last day to drop course without academic penalty	November 12
Team-based policy brief assignment due	November 29
Final class	December 6
Final exam period	December 10-21