

# **HS4400B**

## **Advanced Health Policy**

University of Western Ontario  
School of Health Studies

Winter 2019  
Course Weight: 0.50

### **COURSE INFO**

LECTURE TIME	Tuesdays, 12:30 PM – 2:20 PM
TUTORIAL TIME	ONLINE
LOCATION	TBD

### **TEACHING TEAM**

INSTRUCTOR	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 common methods and tools for health policy analysis and to consider the utility of such tools in relation to critical health policy issues. Course materials and discussions will expose students to critical perspectives on the practice of health policy analysis through case studies, highlighting their strengths, challenges, and limitations.

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

- a. Define key terms in health policy analysis;
- b. Describe common methods and tools for health policy analysis;
- c. Understand the political, social, economic, and ethical dimensions of health policy and health policy analysis;
- d. Critically reflect upon contemporary health policy issues.

**PREREQUISITES**

Health Sciences 3400A/B or the former 2400A/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**

**There is no required textbook.**

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. A provisional reading list will be available at the beginning of the course. Students can expect 2-3 readings, and/or additional website/links to explore each week. Students are responsible for all assigned readings.

**LECTURES**

This course will consist primarily of lectures, student-facilitated in-class discussions, and online tutorials. Attendance and participation in lectures and in online tutorials is expected. The following is a tentative timetable of class topics, which is subject to modification. Students are expected to come to class prepared (i.e., having read all assigned materials).

Week	Dates	Topic
1	January 8	Introduction
2	January 15	Formal health policy analysis
3	January 22	Economic evaluation in health policy
4	January 29	Beyond formal policy analysis
5	February 5	Health policy ethics
6	February 12	Global health policy
7	February 18-22	Reading week – No classes

8	February 26	Case study and student presentations
9	March 5	Case study and student presentations
10	March 12	Case study and student presentations
11	March 19	Case study and student presentations
12	March 26	Case study and student presentations
13	April 2	Case study and student presentations
14	April 9	Case study and student presentations

**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.**

**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

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Percent of final grade</b>
<b>Participation</b>	Ongoing	10%
<b>Group presentation</b>	To be scheduled (February 26- April 9)	35%
<b>Outline of final paper</b>	February 16 (by 11:59pm)	15%
<b>Final policy analysis paper</b>	April 2 (by 11:59pm)	40%

### **Participation**

Students are expected to participate in both in-class and online discussions. 5% of the participation grade will be evaluated based on in-class participation, and the other 5% will be evaluated based on online participation. Further criteria for evaluation will be posted on OWL at the beginning of the course.

### **Group presentation**

Students will present on a topic from a list of pre-selected topics and facilitate subsequent in-class and online discussion. The length of presentations and size of groups will depend on course enrollment. 5% of the grade for the group presentation will stem from a peer evaluation. Further instructions and a rubric for evaluation will be disseminated in the first few weeks of the course.

### **Outline of final paper**

Students will prepare and submit a 2-page outline of the course's final paper (see below) in order to (1) get approval of the health policy to be analyzed and (2) receive feedback on potential avenues for further exploration. Further instructions and a rubric for evaluation will be disseminated in the first few weeks of the course.

### **Final policy analysis paper**

Students will choose and critically examine a Canadian (i.e., local, provincial/territorial, or federal) health policy in terms of the types of policy analysis and evaluation that were/are being used in the policy-making process, the inputs, process, outputs, outcomes, and unintended consequences of the policy, key stakeholders and policy influencers, and the policy's precision, plausibility, and implementation. This assignment will be completed independently. Further instructions and a rubric for evaluation will be disseminated in the first few weeks of the course.

**There will be no final exam.**

### **Extensions and late assignments**

In order to be fair to your peers and the instructor, 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 74-80. 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](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.

### **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](https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html).

### **Accommodation**

[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/>

### **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	<b>January 8</b>
Outline of final paper due	<b>February 16</b>
Reading week (no classes)	<b>February 18-22</b>
Group presentations	<b>February 26-April 9</b>
Last day to drop course without academic penalty	<b>March 7</b>
Final policy analysis paper due	<b>April 2</b>
Final class	<b>April 9</b>