

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
LONDON CANADA**

School of Health Studies

**Health Sciences 4991G
Independent Study in the Health Sciences**

1.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Readings and discussion on, or field experience in, selected topics in Health Sciences agreed upon through consultation between the student and the supervising professor

Prerequisites: Enrolment in the fourth year of an Honors Specialization module in the School of Health Studies with a minimum average of 75%

Note regarding 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.

2.0 COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Arthur and Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building, Room 330
ajohnson@uwo.ca

Office Hours:

By appointment (see OWL signup for details) in HSB 330

Course Website:

<https://owl.uwo.ca>

Times and Location of Tutorials: Online (except where noted in Section 6.0)

3.1 TEXTBOOKS

There are no required readings of any kind for this course, other than readings that are provided by your supervisor. You are expected to develop an appropriate set of background readings that will extend the resources provided by your supervisor.

4.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES

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 learned material from the Health Science program to a current health issue or problem.

5.1 EVALUATION

Research Proposal	2020.01.31	10%
TCPS 2 Ethics Certificate	2020.02.28	5%
ISRF Abstract	2020.03.13	5%
ISRF Presentation	2020.03.27	10%
Independent Study Project	2020.04.03	70%

Research Proposal. You are responsible for submitting a research proposal to the course coordinator that indicates the learning goals and objectives for your independent study, created in consultation with your faculty mentor. This assignment must be submitted through the assignment tool in OWL, **no later than 4:30pm on 2020.01.31**. This research proposal will be, on average, approximately 500 words in length (approximately 2 double-spaced pages). This is designed to be a brief description of the plan of action for the developing project. It is possible that the objectives may change over the course of the independent study – this is perfectly understandable, and any such changes should be documented by you and approved by your faculty mentor. It is not necessary to re-submit the proposal should your plans change during the course of the independent study.

TCPS 2 Ethics Certificate. On your own, you will complete the TCPS 2 Core tutorial (<https://tcps2core.ca>), and submit your ethics certificate (online, through the assignment tool in OWL), as proof of completion of the tutorial, **no later than 4:30pm on 2020.02.28**.

ISRF Abstract. You will create an abstract for the presentation that you will be giving at the Independent Study Research Forum on November 29th, and submit this to the course coordinator (through the assignment tool in OWL), **no later than 4:30pm on 2020.03.13**. The abstract is to be no more than 250 words in length, and should be formatted as an “unstructured abstract.” Further details as to how to structure an abstract will be provided within the lecture videos presented online.

ISRF Presentation. You will present your project summary to an assembly of your peers, as well as faculty and staff from across the Faculty of Health Sciences. **You are to upload your presentation slides (using either PowerPoint or PDF) through the assignment tool in OWL, no later than 9:00am on Thursday, March 26th, 2020. Presentations will be given between 12:30pm and 4:00pm on Friday, March 27th, 2020. You are expected to be present for all presentations, unless you have compelling (and documented) reasons for your absence.**

Independent Study Project. The nature of the project and its specifications are organized and agreed to, between the student and his or her faculty mentor. The project in its entirety is to be submitted online **no later than 4:30pm on 2020.04.03**. The paper should be approximately 2,000 words in length, not including references, title page, and abstract. It should be double-spaced, and formatted using a font size no smaller than 12 points. You are encouraged to use subheadings to identify the main sections of the paper. Referencing and formatting of the paper should conform to the most recent version of APA guidelines.

NOTE: 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>).

5.2 LATE POLICY

All assignments are due on the date and at the time indicated. Late assignments are penalized at a rate of 1% for each full hour after the deadline. No assignments will be accepted more than four days late.

6.0 TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

	Lecture Topic
2020.01.06	Welcome and orientation to the course
2020.01.13	Asking good questions
2020.01.20	Putting together an effective research proposal
2020.01.27	Accessing library resources
2020.02.03	Electronic reference management
2020.02.10	Independent work on TCPS 2 core 2 tutorial
2020.02.17	<i>No content this week – Fall Reading Week</i>
2020.02.24	Scientific / scholarly writing
2020.03.02	Putting together an effective abstract
2020.03.09	How to give an effective oral presentation
2020.03.16	Independent work on ISRF presentation
2020.03.27	Independent Study Research Forum

7.1 GENERAL COURSE NOTES

Student Code of Conduct

You are expected to comply with the Code of Student Conduct at all times within the classroom, and when dealing with members of the instructional team. The purpose of this Code 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>.

Course Website

This course is a totally “paperless” course, and as such the course website will be your sole source for lecture overheads, readings, and course information (including this course outline). Due to privacy regulations, grades will only be provided to you through OWL – I will not, under any circumstance, convey grades via email, or over the phone.

Email

I am happy to answer your questions via email. You must, however, use your UWO email address for all correspondence regarding this course. Because the University ‘anti-spam’ programs often reject email from Gmail, iCloud, Hotmail, Yahoo, and other public email addresses, there is no guarantee that I will receive your emails if you send them from a public email program – or from any off-campus server, when sending email using any method other than the university’s webmail system. That said, I will do my best to answer your emails promptly. Please try to limit your questions to administrative matters only – detailed questions on course content are best: (a) raised during (or immediately after) lectures, (b) asked during office hours, or (c) posted to the online discussion forum.

Grade Adjustments

Final grades in this course will be taken to the closest integer (i.e., I will “round off” decimals). Exam grades will be calculated out of 100% to one decimal place. I will not, under any circumstances, “bump up” your grade (i.e., to facilitate professional school applications etc.). This includes grades that end in a “9”. Along similar lines, I will not reweight examinations for reasons other than those outlined in section 5.3. In other words – I will not alter exam weights for evaluations that you have already written.

Policy on 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 electronic devices during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

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.**

7.2 POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury.

Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfil their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a

documented absence;

- Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;
- c. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- d. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- e. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations (i.e., “bellringers”);
- f. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;
- g. Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed

7.3 POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and you 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

7.4 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://www.uwo.ca/health/staff_fac/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html.

7.5 SUPPORT SERVICES

There are various support services around campus, and these include (but are not limited to):

- Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
- Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
- Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
- Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

8.0 PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If you are not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be sent to the Director of the School of Health Studies. If you consider this response to be unsatisfactory, you may then appeal to the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. If this response is unsatisfactory, you may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office.