

HS3400A

Health Policy

University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies

Fall 2019
Course Weight: 0.50

COURSE INFO	
Day & Time	Location
Mondays, 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	SSC-2050
Thursdays, 2:30 PM - 4:20 PM	NSC-1

TEACHING TEAM	
PROFESSOR	Maxwell J. Smith, PhD Assistant Professor
EMAIL	maxwell.smith@uwo.ca
PHONE	519-661-2111 x88589
OFFICE	HSB331
OFFICE HOURS	Mondays, 12:30-2pm No drop-ins; appointments only. Sign up via OWL.
TEACHING ASSISTANTS	TBA

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 are 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.

HS3400A – Health Policy

Week	Date	Topic
1	Sept. 5	Introduction to the course: Why health policy?
2	Sept. 9	What is health policy?
2	Sept. 12	How does Canada’s health system work?
3	Sept. 16	Health policy case study 1
3	Sept. 19	Identifying policy problems and getting them on the agenda
4	Sept. 23	Health policy case study 2
4	Sept. 26	Choosing policy instruments
5	Sept. 30	Health policy case study 3
5	Oct. 3	Policy analysis
6	Oct. 7	Health policy case study 4
6	Oct. 10	Midterm preparation
7	Oct. 14	Thanksgiving – No class
7	Oct. 17	Midterm
8	Oct. 21	Health policy case study 5
8	Oct. 24	Theories of policy change
9	Oct. 28	Health policy case study 6
9	Oct. 31	Policy actors
10	Nov. 4-8	Reading week – No classes
11	Nov. 11	Health policy case study 7
11	Nov. 14	Evidence-based health policy
12	Nov. 18	Health policy case study 8
12	Nov. 21	Public health policy & healthy public policy
13	Nov. 25	Health policy case study 9
13	Nov. 28	Global health policy
14	Dec. 2	Health policy case study 10
14	Dec. 5	Ethical dimensions of health policy

Recording prohibited

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.**

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 17 (in-class)	30%
Team-based policy brief assignment	November 24 (by 11:55pm via OWL)	30%
Final exam	To be determined, exam period: Dec. 8-19	40%

Midterm exam

The midterm will occur in class on October 17th, and students will have the entire class to complete the exam. All materials covered up to and including the October 10th class will be testable. The midterm exam may consist of multiple choice questions, true and false questions, and/or 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 without approved accommodation will result in a grade of zero.

Team-based policy brief assignment

Students in groups of around 4-6 (depending on course enrollment) will write a policy brief on a relevant health policy topic or issue. Further instructions will be provided in class. This assignment will be due by 11:55pm on November 24th via OWL. 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 8-19). 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/or short answer questions. The final 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 academic a written, pre-arranged approval for extension by the instructor or via academic counselling 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 electronic devices during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

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

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:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) 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
- (iii) 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.

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.

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 email. 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 5
Thanksgiving (no class)	October 14
Reading week (no classes)	November 4-8
Midterm	October 17
Last day to drop course without academic penalty	November 12
Team-based policy brief assignment due	November 24
Final class	December 5
Final exam period	December 8-19