

**HS1002B: Social Determinants of Health  
Winter 2021**

**Time:** Power Hour Sessions (Thursdays 11:30-12:30) + Asynchronous Lectures

**Location:** Online (OWL)

**Co-Instructors:** Elysée Nouvet, PhD & Joshua Tobias, PhD

**Email:** Your TA is your first email contact (please put HS1002B in the subject line)

**\*\*Note on email communication with instructors for this course:** Due to the class size, your first source of information for email inquiries must be your TA. Please refrain from emailing the professors directly, unless your question or concerns is one the TA has been unable to resolve to your satisfaction.

**Professor email:** [enouvet@uwo.ca](mailto:enouvet@uwo.ca); [jtobias2@uwo.ca](mailto:jtobias2@uwo.ca) (please put HS1002B in the subject line)

**Office Hours**

Please always reach out to your *tutorial leader* first to discuss concerns with any of the course materials or evaluations. This is practical given the size of the class, but also you will have a chance to get to know your tutorial leader one on one throughout the term making them the ideal point of contact for any questions and concerns.

Office hours will be held virtually using Zoom (see OWL).

**Professor Office Hours**

Elysée Nouvet – Wednesdays 10am-12pm; Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm

Joshua Tobias – Thursdays 12:30-2:30 pm; Thursdays 6:00 – 7:00pm

**Tutorial Leader Office Hours**

Please consult OWL to determine your assigned TA. Your TA is your first point of contact for queries, concerns, and discussion of course materials. All TAs will hold regular office hours, and are available by appointment also.

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.

---

**Course Description:** This course introduces key social determinants of health and orients students to viewing health in relation to social factors and social justice. Students will be introduced to basic terms, concepts, and measurements related to health, public health, population health, and health inequalities.

*Antirequisite(s): The former Health Sciences 1000.*

**Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Differentiate between personal and social determinants of health;
- Identify and critically analyze social determinants of health and their impacts in Canadian and global contexts
- Explain the relationship between social determinants of health and strategies to reduce suffering, disease, and inequalities in healthcare
- Integrate a trauma and violence-informed approach into the analysis and evaluation of healthcare practices, settings, and outcomes
- Explain the role culture can play in experiences of healthcare and health outcomes

**Course Materials (required readings):**

1. Online readings (OWL). Course reading materials will be posted on OWL. Please check this site often to keep informed of important course information or announcements.
2. Online non-written resources : films, YouTube videos, and potentially podcasts (TBD) will be available via links on OWL

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the following teaching assistant: TBA

**Course Structure**

This course material will be delivered in 2 parts:

1. **Non-synchronous lectures** (which students can consume on their own time before Thursday’s Power Hour). Lecture material will be made available each Sunday prior to the week it is assigned.
2. **Synchronous Tutorials** every Thursday, which students are required to attend from 11:30 – 12:30 (hereafter called the Power Hour)

**Course Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic Question</b>
Week 1 January 11 <sup>th</sup>	What are key social determinants of health and why do we care?  Quiz (3%)  <i>Power Hour Thursday Jan. 14</i>
Week 2 January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Why is food (in)security a public health issue in North America?  Quiz (3 %)

	<p>Minor assignment A (2.5%) due on OWL by 5pm Jan. 20</p> <p><i>Power Hour Jan. 21</i></p>
<p>Week 3 January 25<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Can your job really kill you?</p> <p>Quiz (3%)</p> <p>NO POWER HOUR THIS WEEK</p>
<p>Week 4 February 1<sup>st</sup></p>	<p>How exactly does racism operate as a social determinant of health?</p> <p>Quiz 3 %</p> <p>Minor assignment B (2.5%) due on OWL by 5pm Feb 3</p> <p><i>Power Hour Feb 4</i></p>
<p>Week 5 February 8<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Were our grandparents really healthier than our kids?</p> <p>Quiz 3%</p> <p>Minor Assignment C (2.5%) due on OWL by 5pm am Feb. 10</p> <p><i>Power Hour Feb. 11</i></p>
<p><b>February 15<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>READING WEEK</b></p>
<p>Week 6 February 22<sup>nd</sup></p>	<p>What exactly do we mean by disability justice?</p> <p>Quiz: 3%</p> <p>Minor Assignment D (2.5%) due on OWL by 5pm Feb 24 2021</p> <p>Power Hour: Feb 25</p>
<p>Week 7 March 1<sup>st</sup></p>	<p>What matters most at the end of life?</p> <p>Quiz: 3%</p> <p>Exam Question Assignment due by 5pm March 3</p> <p>NO POWER HOUR THIS WEEK</p>
<p>Week 8 March 8<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>The Social Determinants of Indigenous Health: Part 1 – The People</p> <p>Quiz: 3%</p> <p><i>Power Hour March 11</i></p>
<p>Week 9 March 15<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>The Social Determinants of Indigenous Health: Part 2 – The Land</p> <p>Quiz: 3%</p> <p>Power Hour March 18</p>
<p>Week 10 March 22<sup>nd</sup></p>	<p>What is the power of drones for addressing health inequities?</p> <p>Power Hour March 25</p>

Week 11 March 29 <sup>th</sup>	How do social determinants shape healthcare professionals' experiences of their work?  Minor Assignment E: (2.5%) due on OWL by 5 pm March 31 <sup>st</sup>  <i>Power Hour: April 1<sup>st</sup></i>
-----------------------------------	--

### Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

Assignment	Details	Value
Weekly Quizzes	10 Quizzes worth 3% each	27%
Minor Assignments	Students complete 4/5, worth 2.5% each	10%
Exam Questions	Due 5pm March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3%
Power Hour Participation	2 x 5%	10%
Final Exam	Cumulative of all course content	50%

### Evaluation Details

#### **Weekly Quiz**

The weekly quizzes are based on lecture and required reading/viewing for a particular week. These are always week specific, rather than cumulative. Please complete the viewing of the lecture videos and assigned materials (readings, videos) BEFORE doing the quiz. You only have one chance at the quiz and these do add up. Note: there are no quizzes weeks 4 & 12.

#### **Minor Assignments**

There are 5 short assignments available to you throughout the term, you are required to select and complete 4. These are each worth 2.5% of your final grade. We are looking for thoughtfulness and engagement with the course materials. There are no wrong answers when it comes to these assignments. The goal of these assignments is to apply your new social determinants of health lens and analysis skills. Minor assignments will form the point of departure for discussions and activities in that week's Power Hour.

Assignments for grading must be submitted on OWL via the assignments tab.

Please note that you must have the selected assignments completed by 5pm on the Wednesday before the relevant Power Hour. Late assignments will be penalised 1 mark upon submission. Most assignments require that you answer questions in full sentences. If point form is accepted, this will be indicated in the instructions.

#### **Exam Questions**

Due by 5pm on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 and submitted through OWL. See OWL for instructions. Some of the multiple choice and TRUE/FALSE questions submitted by students will be used for the final exam.

### ***Power Hour Participation***

Students should arrive to the weekly Power Hour with a grasp of the materials and the completion of any assigned readings, self-directed activities (Power Hour assignments, where applicable – these are not weekly), and film viewings that have been shared on the Sunday of that week. Power Hour participation will be assessed based on attendance, plus where appropriate collection of notes produced by breakout room groups for specific activities.

The Power Hour participation mark will be allocated in two parts worth 5% each: 5% before reading week, and 5% for Power Hour participation after reading week up until the end of the term.

### ***Final Exam***

Held during the exam period, the final exam will be cumulative (covering the entire semester). It will include multiple choice and true false questions that will be in the style of the questions you have encountered in your weekly quizzes.

### **Additional Information:**

#### ***Academic Considerations***

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:

- Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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”);
- 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

**Grades will be based on the Western University grading scale:**

The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:

<b>Mark</b>	<b>Grade</b>	
90-100	A+	<i>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</i>
85-89	A	<i>Superior work that is clearly above average</i>
80-84	A-	

77-79	B+	<i>Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory</i>
73-76	B	
70-72	B-	
67-69	C+	<i>Competent work, meeting requirements</i>
63-66	C	<i>Fair work, minimally acceptable.</i>
60- 62	C-	
57- 59	D+	
53- 56	D	
50- 52	D-	
0-49	F	<i>Fail</i>

### ***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> .

### ***Use of Recording Devices and Course Content:***

Course instructors own and retain the intellectual property rights of their teaching materials. These rights extend to materials used in online settings and digital learning management systems like Owl and Zoom. Students do not have our permission to make audio or video recordings of lectures, take pictures of lecture material, or distribute any course content for nefarious purposes (E.g. for sale or to cheat on exams). It is the decision of the instructor as to how and when teaching materials can be shared or used. ***Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of pre-recorded lectures or other course materials. Nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.***

### ***English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades:***

Visit the website [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/english.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf)

### ***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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Additionally,

1. Plagiarism and self-plagiarism are considered academic misconduct, will be reported, and may result in a failing grade.
2. 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> ).
3. 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

### ***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 online and 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://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, please visit Western Psychological Services (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych>) for a list of options for obtaining help. To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: <https://uwo.ca/health/wec/education/learning.html>.

### ***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/>
2. Student Health – <http://www.uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>