**HS1002B: Social Determinants of Health**

**2021**

**Time:** “Power hour” group sessions Thursdays 11:30-12:30
+ additional asynchronous lecture
**Location:** Distance Studies/Online
**Instructor:** E. Nouvet, 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 professor directly, unless your question or concerns is one the TA has been unable to resolve to your satisfaction.

**Professor email:** enouvet@uwo.ca (please put HS1002B in the subject line)

**Office:** 339, Health Sciences Bldg
**Professor office hours (online, by appointment):** Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm
(to be accessed only once you have discussed and failed to resolve questions and concerns via your assigned teaching assistant)

**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.

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**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.*

**Course Objectives:** By the end of this course students should be able to:

- differentiate between personal and social determinants of health;

- recognize and describe the impact(s) of key social determinants of health in Canadian and global contexts;

- understand the importance of the “social determinants of health” lens in analyzing and seeking to reduce suffering, disease, and inequalities in health and care

- better grasp what is involved in developing sustainable and culturally sensitive
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 secondary instructor: TBA.

COURSE STRUCTURE
This course will be structured in 2 parts:

1. **Synchronous lectures** every Thursday, which students are required to attend from 11:30 – 12:30 (hereafter called the Power Hour)
2. **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.

SUMMARY OF COURSE PLAN (slight changes possible up until January 1, 2021)
Students should arrive to the Thursday Power Hour with a grasp of the materials and the completion of any assigned readings, self-directed activities, and film viewings that have been shared on the Sunday of that week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of January 4th</td>
<td>What are key social determinants of health and why do we care?</td>
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<td>+ Orientation to outline, power hour sessions, and your group for the term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of January 11th</td>
<td>How are living conditions social determinants of health?</td>
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<td>Week of January 18th</td>
<td>Can your job really kill you?</td>
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<td>Week of January 25th</td>
<td>What are mechanisms of and impacts on health of food insecurity in North America?</td>
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<td>Week of February 1st</td>
<td>How do social determinants shape the incidence of cavities in children?</td>
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<td>Week of February 8th</td>
<td>Does skin color really imply better or worse health outcomes in Canada?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of February 15th</td>
<td>READING WEEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23rd</td>
<td><strong>Mid-term multiple choice exam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of March 1st</td>
<td>What are social determinants of suffering amongst First Nations?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of March 8th</td>
<td>Why and how are so many long-term care residences failing their residents?</td>
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<td>Week of March 15th</td>
<td>What defines a good death?</td>
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<td>Week of March 22nd</td>
<td>Will drones transform healthcare for underserved populations?</td>
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<td>Week of March 29th</td>
<td>Is climate change the biggest global health threat we face?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of April 5th</td>
<td>Transforming the world, bending the arc Course wrap up power hour</td>
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**Evaluations**

*Online Power hour*

Preparation before 15 % (7 x 2% + 1 x 1 % due throughout term, Before the related power hour)

*Online*

Multiple choice mid-term exam 40 % *February 23*

Multiple choice final exam 45 % *In exam period*

**Please note re EVALUATIONS**

- Participation for power hour will be allocated based on a series of brief individual assignments completed in preparation for the power hour. All short assignments (which may include comments on readings, films, or other reflection assignments of approximately 0.5 pages single spaced in length) will be due on the power hour date and time to which they are linked. These assignments will not be accepted after their due date.

*Power hour assignments will be assigned a week in advance at minimum. It is your responsibility to complete these sufficiently in advance, so that if you are ill on the day of power hour, this does not impact on your ability to complete the work. You will not be docked points for not showing up at power hour, but you cannot submit your power hour assignments late.*
- Exams will be based on all assigned course readings or materials, course lectures, and in-class discussions, activities, guest lectures and films/videos.
- The final exam will be cumulative.

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

**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 responsibilities...
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

Grades will be based on the Western University grading scale:
The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Superior work that is clearly above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Competent work, meeting requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Fair work, minimally acceptable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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</tbody>
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**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](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, Zoom and TopHat. 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](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/