

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES
HS3050A: HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE
SUMMER 2021

Instructor: Ivan Culum, PhD
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Office: Virtual (by appointment)

Format: Paced (weekly), asynchronous (i.e., no set lecture times)

Required Textbook:

Glatzer, W., Camfield, L., Møller, V., & Rojas, M. (2015). Global Handbook of Quality of Life [electronic resource]: Exploration of Well-Being of Nations and Continents / edited by Wolfgang Glatzer, Laura Camfield, Valerie Møller, Mariano Rojas. (1st ed. 2015.). Springer Netherlands.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-017-9178-6>

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides instruction regarding the construction, measurement, and definition of health-related quality of life. It is designed to help students better understand the multidimensional nature of quality of life as a theoretical construct and how it is applied to issues of health, wellness, illness, and disease in local and global settings.

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Define the concept of “quality of life” (QoL) related to individual and public health;
- Understand how multiple determinants of health affect QoL;
- Understand different measurements for QoL;
- Describe QoL differences among different geopolitical regions;
- Synthesize knowledge about the importance of QoL to human health & well-being

C. READINGS

You are expected to read the required textbook chapters ahead of each unit (see Section E for timetable). Additional readings may be posted with each unit.

D. ASSESSMENTS

Students will be graded based on their performance on **written assignments (80% of their final grade)** and **discussion participation (20% of their grade)**. Assignment information will be posted on the course OWL site. **See Section E for due dates.**

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE/GRADE BREAKDOWN

Assessment	Weighting
Forum Discussion	20%
Reflections (3x10%)	30%
Group Presentation	20%
Critical Synthesis (Group Assignment)	30%

E. COURSE TIMETABLE (Subject to Change)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Workload
1	05.03 – 05.09	Quality of Life (QoL) & Well-being	Ch. 1	Forum Discussion
2	05.10 – 05.16	Living Standards & Health	Ch. 2-3	Forum Discussion
3	05.17 – 05.23	Human Conflict & Violence	Ch. 4-5	Forum Discussion Reflection 1 (10%)
4	05.24 – 05.30	Objective Measurements of QoL	Ch. 6-8	Forum Discussion
5	05.31 – 06.06	Subjective Measurements of QoL	Ch. 9-11	Forum Discussion Reflection 2 (10%)
6	06.07 – 06.13	Socioeconomic Factors & QoL	Ch. 12-14 15-17*	Forum Discussion
7	06.14 – 06.20	Socioeconomic Factors & QoL	Ch. 18-21	Forum Discussion
8	06.21 – 06.27	QoL in Canada & Abroad	Ch. 24 Ch. 22-23; 25-32*	Forum Discussion Reflection 3 (10%)
9	06.28 – 07.04	Social Reporting	Ch. 33-35	Forum Discussion
10	07.05 – 07.11	Social Cohesion	Ch. 36	Forum Discussion
11	07.12 – 07.18	Culture and QoL	Ch. 37-38	Forum Discussion Group Presentation (20%)
12	07.19 – 07.23	The QoL Continuum & Future Well-being	Ch. 39-41	Forum Discussion Critical Synthesis (30%)

*Choose at least 1 chapter

F. 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.

G. PLAGIARISM

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.

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:

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20

H. ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION

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*

I. USE OF COURSE MATERIALS

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.**

J. SUPPORT SERVICES

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

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
2. Student Health -- <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombud's Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

K. HEALTH & 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://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.

L. GRADE POLICY

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

A+	90-100	<i>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</i>
A	80-89	<i>Superior work that is clearly above average</i>
B	70-79	<i>Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory</i>
C	60-69	<i>Competent work, meeting requirements</i>
D	50-59	<i>Fair work, minimally acceptable.</i>
F	below 50	<i>Fail</i>

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 74-78. 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.