

Western University
School of Health Studies

**Health Sciences 3400A
Health Policy**

Fall 2020 - Instructor: Dr. Denise Grafton

This class does not have a scheduled lecture time. However, for the *purposes of planning* I will be using the following day as a weekly benchmark for posting new material: **Thursday afternoons**. There will be one additional ASYNCHRONOUS online tutorial hour (3 hours total).

Location: Remote/On-Line

Email: dgrafton@uwo.ca Phone: x64443

Office Hours: TBA in OWL

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. For further information regarding prerequisites or anti-requisites please visit www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca.

Prerequisites: 60% in both Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B

Course Description & Objectives:

'Absolute freedom is the right of the strongest to dominate,' Camus wrote, while 'absolute justice is achieved by the suppression of all contradiction: therefore it destroys freedom.' The conflict between justice and freedom required constant re-balancing, political moderation, an acceptance and celebration of that which limits the most: our humanity. 'To live and let live,' he said, 'in order to create what we are.' (Dresser, 2017¹)

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

¹ Dresser, S. (2017). How Camus and Sartre Split up Over the Question of How to Be Free. *Psyche*; URL: <https://aeon.co/ideas/how-camus-and-sartre-split-up-over-the-question-of-how-to-be-free>. Accessed August 11, 2020

policy is created, and the various policy instruments used to meet health policy objectives. The goal of this course is for students to gain a deeper understanding of the health care system in Canada, how health policy is made and implemented, and the implications of health policies. This course will consist primarily of lectures and case studies. Students are responsible for all assigned readings. 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.

Lecture materials and topics will be available on the course site in OWL.

Course Materials

Required: Deber, R. and Mah, C. (2014). *Case Studies in Canadian Health Policy and Management*, 2nd edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

*available in hard copy format from the UWO Bookstore, or you have the option of purchasing an e-book directly from the publisher at: <https://utorontopress.com/ca/case-studies-in-canadian-health-policy-and-management-second-edition-4>

Electronic resource Western Libraries. One user at a time, no downloads: https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991044442267105163&context=L&vid=01OCUL_UWO:UWO_D_EFAULT&lang=en&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=Everything&query=any,contains,case%20studies%20in%20canadian%20health%20policy%20and%20management&offset=0

Class Schedule and Format:

Each week there will be one asynchronous two-hour lecture and ONE tutorial hour. Students are responsible for assigned readings and should be prepared to discuss them in their tutorial groups. Students are encouraged to be actively engaged in class discussions and group participation as undergraduates because the “real world” makes these demands on them routinely.

Important Dates:

No lectures/classes will be held:

- Fall Reading week: November 1-8, 2020

At least 15% of the final grade will be returned to students by November 8, 2020

First day of class: September 9, 2020

Mid-term examination: October 22, 2020

Group-prepared Policy Briefing Note: November 22, 2020

Evaluation:

Further details will be available on the course site in OWL:

Mid-term Examination (online): Thursday, October 22, 2020 – 30%

Health Policy Briefing Note (group project): Sunday, November 22, 2020 @ 11:55PM - 20%

Weekly Tutorial (online): 7.5% for weekly lead role, 1.25% per week participation (x10 weeks)

Final Summative Timed project: 30%. Date & time will be determined by the Registrar's office.

a) Mid-term examination (30%) – Thursday, October 22, 2020 from 5:30PM to 7:00PM

There will be an online mid-term examination in class on Thursday, October 22, lasting 90 minutes & covering all material discussed in the course and tutorials up to and including October 15th. The format of the examination will be a combination of multiple choice questions, short written answers and application questions.

b) Two Briefing Notes (20% - Groups of approximately 5-6 students)

Students may request ONE specific individual in the class to be paired with to work on the group project.

You are to provide a briefing note on any **two health policy cases** (individual student choice from the text, OR other case to be approved by the instructor, based on interest) as discussed during the course (ergo, 2 briefing notes total). Students will also select the audience/situation that the briefing note is presented in (e.g. hospital board, Health Minister, Mayor, etc.). Please see OWL for the more detailed assignment information including sources of help in writing a briefing note. Due November 22, 2020.

c) Online Tutorial (20%)

7.5% for weekly lead role, 1.25% per week participation (x10 weeks)

Each week (except the first week and other weeks as noted in the weekly calendar), there is a 50 minute tutorial which will be held on-line in OWL. Tutorial group size will depend on final course enrolment. The tutorial time will focus on contemporary health policy situations that can be found in a newspaper articles; these will be selected by students and shared in advance with their tutorial session in OWL. Students are asked to find one newspaper article and a journal article that would support the policy discussed in the article (e.g. if you have a newspaper article about active transportation in school neighbourhoods, you would need to also find one current (i.e. *last 5 years*, unless it's a seminal work) article on the same topic. **Please post your links to your articles 48 hours PRIOR to the session so that other students will have time to review them. Tutorials will run Monday to Sunday each week.**

Attendance is mandatory in tutorial sessions as a component of the final course grade is achieved in the tutorial session.

d) Timed Final Summative Evaluation (30%) – TBA Scheduled by Registrar

There will be a final summative evaluation/take-home test lasting a maximum of two hours covering all material discussed in the course and will be delivered through OWL. The date will be set by the university in the final exam period in December 2020.

Grading scheme:

Below you will find the university-wide scale that has been approved by the Western University Senate. Marks will not be rounded.

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 **74% and 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.

Policies:

Pre-requisite 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

Late assignments

This class is evaluated primarily through examinations, which must not be missed unless in the case of a medical condition, family emergency, or other unforeseen circumstances. A note from your Physician indicating the nature of your condition must be submitted to the School of Health Studies Main Office, and only upon receipt of such a letter will a new examination be scheduled. Visit Western's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> for further details. With respect to the written assignments, **late assignments will not be accepted** past the due dates without a Doctor's note. If the student presents a Doctor's note the extended deadline will be 1 week after original due date. Late assignments without documentation will be accepted, however, a late penalty will be applied: 5% for the first day and 10% for every subsequent day; assignments will not be accepted one week after the due date.

Lecture presentations for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Electronic devices

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.

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 of the following electronic devices during ANY of the tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations: cellphones, smart phones, smart watches, smart glasses, audio players or recorders of any sort, video cameras, video games, DVD players, televisions, laptop/notebook/netbook computers, flashlights or laser pointers.

Use of Plagiarism Detection software: 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>)

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>.

English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades

Visit the website http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf

Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html>

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 fulfill 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;
- 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 fulfill the academic expectations they may have missed

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

Additionally,

1. 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>).
2. 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.

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/>

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.

Rounding of Grades (for example, bumping a 79 to 80%)

This is a practice some students request. This practice will not occur here. Assignments have been carefully designed to be clear and fair. Please do not ask the Course Instructor or Teaching Assistants to do this for you.

Attendance and Classroom Behaviour (online and/or in-person)

In the School of Health Studies, each course instructor sets specific expectations for attendance and participation that are specific to the course, teaching objectives, and learning outcomes. Regular attendance is expected and essential for all courses, but particularly those that include participation grades in their evaluation schemes. Participation means not only attendance, but active engagement in the class, including (for example) contribution to small and large group discussions, a demonstrated effort to prepare for class by completing assigned readings before class, and following the instructor's guidelines for use of electronic devices during class time. Students who miss classes, or parts of classes, are responsible for the material they have missed. Instructors are not obliged to review the contents of missed lectures.

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.

Health and Wellness

The undergraduate experience is rewarding and challenging socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Finding ways to balance scholarly life with our personal lives can be tough, but it's important to learn how to manage stress. Western provides several health and wellness-related services to students, which may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. You can also check out the Campus Recreation Centre or the McIntosh Gallery (<http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>), for alternative spaces to reconnect with your bodies and restore your spirit. You may also want to access local resources that are closer to where you are living during the school year. Recalibrating ourselves emotionally begins with slowing down, reminding ourselves that we are ok, and taking a few deep, slow breaths. This remarkably effective strategy brings the body from stress mode into a more relaxed state.

If you are in emotional or mental distress please see Mental Health@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a list of options about how to obtain help. Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module: https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html. It's also advisable to have a

wellness safety plan if you don't want to reach out to formal services. Having the numbers of a few trusted individuals is another strategy.

Intellectual Property

The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments, and any materials posted to OWL, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content to third-party websites violates an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant University Policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with Western University.