

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
LONDON, CANADA**

**School of Health Studies  
Health Sciences 4092G – Special Topics in Health Sciences: Trauma-informed Care in the  
Health Professions  
Winter 2021**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This advanced course blends theory and practice with in-depth study of trauma-informed care & practice in various health professions and practice settings. Course content includes the study of practice oriented theories related to several relevant topics, including, trauma-informed assessment and interview skills, the role of authority in trauma-informed patient/health care professional relationships, responding to depersonalization and dissociation in clinical settings, and informed consent in trauma-informed practice. Opportunity for practical application of theory is enabled through in-depth study of trauma-informed care in particular health professions.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- Describe and discuss the nature of trauma and traumatic experience broadly speaking, trauma as a subjective experience, and the potential impact of early trauma on emotional wellbeing across the lifespan.
- Demonstrate understanding of trauma-informed care and practice in various health professions and health care settings.
- Review and critically analyze relevant literature to enable the practical application of theoretical content to real-life professional practice.
- Demonstrate proficiency in skills related to research and effective academic communication.
- Participate in the co-creation of a learning experience that is vital and engaging.

**Prerequisites:** Registration in the third or fourth year of the School of Health Studies.

**NOTE:** 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

**Extra Information:** 3 contact hours.

**Course Weight:** 0.50

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Marnie Wedlake, PhD, RP  
Email: mwedlak@uwo.ca

**Email communications:** Please send emails using your UWO email address only. Emails sent from any other accounts will not be read. **I TEACH MORE THAN ONE COURSE, SO PLEASE INCLUDE THE COURSE NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT LINE.**

**Office Hours:** TBD – WILL BE POSTED ON OWL

**Teaching Assistant:** TBD – WILL BE POSTED ON OWL

**Course Website:** <https://owl.uwo.ca>

**Days & Times of Lectures:** Lectures will be delivered asynchronously, on a weekly basis.

**Location of Lectures:** All lectures will be delivered online.

## **ASSIGNED READINGS AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS**

**There are no textbooks for this course.** All assigned readings will be available, without cost, through Western's Library System, online and/or through our OWL site.

Readings and course materials will be assigned for each topic of the course. Sources might include peer reviewed journal articles, grey literature, popular press articles, films, video clips, and website content. Materials assigned will correspond to the lecture topic. Additional materials may be assigned at any time, and will be posted on the course website. Students are responsible for the content covered in all assigned course materials.

**A COMPLETE LIST OF LECTURE TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS WILL BE POSTED TO OWL BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS.**

## **LEARNING ENVIROMENT**

This course experience will function according to the assumption that successful learning happens in environments where learning is co-created by the instructor and the students.

As the instructor, I will endeavour to provide students with course experiences that are optimally engaging, motivating, and interesting. In return, I will expect students to attend all classes, and contribute to the collaborative nature of the learning experience through their active participation in discussions, by completing the assigned readings, and by offering constructive feedback as will be deemed useful to the overall learning experience.

Ideally, we will co-create a learning environment that welcomes and encourages group dialogues that are dynamic, passionate, and open-minded. That is, a learning experience that is vital and engaging for all. In this regard, it is my hope that we will come together in the spirit of community and shared

interest to co-create a learning environment that is supported by civility and mutual respect. In doing so, we will set the stage for a healthy and stimulating intellectual forum.

Finally, if you are having problems with any aspect of the course, please contact me. I'm genuinely committed to your learning experience, I'm approachable, and I welcome your comments, your constructive criticisms and, of course, your questions.

## EVALUATION

**1. Mind Map – 5%** - Full details will be posted on OWL during the first week of classes. **Due Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> 2021. Must be submitted through OWL by 4:00pm on Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

**2. Critical Reading Log – 15%** - Full details will be posted on OWL during the first few weeks of classes. **Due Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> 2021. Must be submitted through OWL by 4:00pm on Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

**3. Three-part Group Project: Comprehensive Study & Application of Trauma-informed Care in Specific Health Professions\*\* – 50%.** Part 1 (10%) + Part 2 (15%) + Part 3 (25%) = 50% of the final grade. **Due dates: Part 1 will be due the week of March 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Parts 2 & 3 will be due by Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. All 3 parts must be submitted through OWL by the specified due dates.**

**4. Take Home Final Examination – 30% - DATE SCHEDULED BY THE REGISTRAR.**

\*\*The three parts of the group project: 1- an annotated bibliography; 2- a summary of research presented as a narrated PowerPoint presentation; 3- three client/patient narratives intended to demonstrate the use of a trauma-informed approach to the provision of care.

Students will be randomly assigned to groups. The number of students assigned to each group will depend on the number of students enrolled in the course.

Complete details regarding the group project, including comprehensive marking guides, will be provided at the beginning of the term.

## PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING REGARDING EXAMS:

- 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.
- Makeup exams will be different from those originally scheduled, and may include multiple choice, written and/or short answer questions.
- Examinable materials may include any content covered/presented in classes, including: lecture content, content presented by guest speakers, any/all assigned readings, videos, etc.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

## USE OF RECORDINGS

**Although this course will be delivered online, fully asynchronously, in the event that any synchronously delivered remote learning sessions are added, they 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.

## STATEMENTS CONCERNING ONLINE ETIQUETTE

Some components of this course may involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Please “arrive” to class on time (in the case of this course, this refers to any synchronously delivered learning sessions that might be provided).
- Please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet).
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material.
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise.
- In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak.
- Please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable.
- Unless invited by your instructor, do **not** share your screen in the meeting.

The course instructor and/or TA’s will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question.
- Remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking.
- Introduce yourself when speaking.
- Remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise).

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

## GENERAL COURSE NOTES

### ***Regarding the Use of Plagiarism Checking 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>)

### ***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.

### ***On the Use of Electronic Devices***

**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 evaluations.

### ***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.***

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

### **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/>

### **On Health and Wellness**

As part of a successful undergraduate experience at Western, we encourage you to make health and wellness a priority. Self-care is a critical component of health and wellness. Western provides several on-campus and online health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and wellness 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 the health and related services available to students can be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. For information regarding emotional supports, please visit Western Psychological Services (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/wec/education/learning.html>. A list of community-based services and supports will be available through the course OWL site. Students are also encouraged to access local health and wellness resources within their home communities.

### **The School of Health Studies grade policy**

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 be in the range of 74-80%. 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.