

## HS1002B: Social Determinants of Health Winter 2023

**Time:** Power Hour Sessions (In person) + Asynchronous Lectures

**Location:** Online + in person

**Instructor:** Elysée Nouvet, PhD

**Email:** [enouvet@uwo.ca](mailto:enouvet@uwo.ca) Note: Due to the class size, your TA is your first email contact. TA contact info is below and on OWL.

### Course Description:

This course introduces key social determinants of health and orientates 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.*

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.

### 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 Structure

This course material will be delivered in 2 parts:

1. **Asynchronous lectures** (which students can consume on their own time but should do so before their Power Hour). Lecture material will be made available each Sunday prior to the week it is assigned.
2. **Synchronous Power Hours** Weekly, on Zoom, which students are required to attend.

**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 podcasts (TBD) will be available via links on OWL

**Teaching Assistant (TA) and Professor Contact Info**

- We are here to support your learning! Due to the class size, your first line of contact in this course is 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.
- Reach out to your TA without hesitation for queries, concerns, and discussion of course materials throughout the term Please put HS1002B in the subject line. Your TA will aim to respond to you within 24hrs during the week, and within 72hrs if emailed after 5pm on a Friday or on a holiday.
- Your TA depends on the tutorial in which you are registered for the semester. Below is a list of tutorial times / group numbers with the corresponding TA and email for that TA. (For the Zoom link to your tutorial/power hour, see OWL under Power Hours in left hand menu)

**TA groups and TA emails** (please put HS1002B in the subject line)

<b>Tutorial Section (Power hr)</b>	<b>Time/day</b>	<b>TA</b>	<b>Email:</b>

- TA office hours are available by appointment. All office hours for this course will be held virtually using Zoom. Please contact your TA to schedule a time to meet with them.

- We have a TA coordinator in this course: (name, TBD). If you are having trouble with part of the course website, or require any course information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the TA Coordinator, (name) via email:
- If you are not satisfied with a response to a query or concern from your TA, please feel free to email me, your instructor Elysée Nouvet. Please put HS1002B in the subject line. [enouvet@uwo.ca](mailto:enouvet@uwo.ca). Please include all communications you have had with your TA in your email to me; include dates and details to help me understand the issue. You can also book an appointment to meet with me through the **Zoom Office hours sign up on OWL**.

### **Diversity and Inclusion statement**

I have selected the readings for this course with the aim of providing you with multiple perspectives: in terms of authors' training, social positionality, and approaches to topics. While as scholars, we do endeavor to remain objective in our analyses, our analyses are always connected to dominant frameworks for the context in which we conduct our analyses, as well as being shaped by our particular trajectories through and experiences in the world. There can be biases in the materials you read, even if written in a scientific voice. Part of your training as a critical health studies scholar is to consider how particular analyses may be informed by the training, goals, audience, and socio-historical context of the author(s).

My goal is to create a classroom where everyone feels respected and valued. That said, if you do find any of the course materials or activities biased or offensive, please help alert me to this. You can do so via your TA, during office hours with your TA or myself, electronically by sending me an email, or anonymously through the "Anonymous feedback" option at the bottom of each topic/week's content on OWL.

Please also let your TA know:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear to me in OWL

### **Your Mental Health**

Let's be honest: the past 1++ years have been HARD for most of us. Lockdowns, social isolation, unexpected and increased stressors linked to managing all sorts of pandemic-related changes... Please remember as you work through this and other courses this term to check-in with, and be kind to yourself. There is significant flexibility built into the course, (i.e., choice afforded you on when to view the recorded lectures, a window of 1 week for the quizzes, flexibility for which minor assessments you complete + an option to submit these late with a penalty). I have chosen this approach in recognition that you are likely under many competing pressures. For the minor assessments, I also encourage you to complete those you find the most interesting.

Know that your TAs and myself care about your well-being. If you are in emotional or mental distress, please consider speaking to an academic counsellor or refer to Mental Health Support @Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

To help you learn more about mental health and wellness, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here:  
[https://www.uwo.ca/health/enhance\\_wellness/dimensions/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/enhance_wellness/dimensions/index.html)

### Course Calendar

Date	Topic Question
Week 1 January 9 <sup>th</sup>	What are key social determinants of health and why do we care? Quiz (3%) due January 15 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm Minor assignment OPTION A (3.5%) due on OWL January 15 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm POWER HOUR STARTS THIS WEEK – attend for participation and for discussion of assignments
Week 2 January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Why is food (in)security a public health issue in North America? Quiz (3%) due January 22 <sup>nd</sup> by 11:55pm
Week 3 January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Can your job really kill you? Quiz (3%) due January 29 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm
Week 4 January 30 <sup>th</sup>	How exactly does racism operate as a social determinant of health? Quiz (3%) due February 5 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm Minor assignment OPTION B (3.5%) due on OWL January 31 <sup>st</sup> by 11:55pm
Week 5 February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Should the elderly be more worried about climate change than the young? Quiz 3% due February 12 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm
Week 6 February 13 <sup>th</sup>	What exactly do we mean by disability justice? Quiz 3% due February 26 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm Minor Assignment OPTION C (3.5%) due on OWL February 14 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm
February 20 <sup>st</sup>	No content or Power Hour - Reading week
Week 7 February 27 <sup>th</sup>	What matters most at the end of life? Quiz: 3% due March 5 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm NO POWER HOUR THIS WEEK
Week 8 March 6 <sup>th</sup>	The Social Determinants of Indigenous Health: Part 1 – The People (Guest lecture by: Dr. Joshua Tobias) Quiz: 3% due March 12 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm

	Minor Assignment OPTION D (3.5%) due on OWL March 12 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm Exam Question Assignment (2%, mandatory) due on OWL <b>by 11:55pm</b> March 10 <sup>th</sup>
Week 9 March 13 <sup>th</sup>	The Social Determinants of Indigenous Health: Part 2 – The Land (Guest lecture by : Joshua Tobias)
Week 10 March 20 <sup>th</sup>	What role can new technologies play in reducing health inequities? Minor Assignment OPTION E (3.5%) due on OWL March 21 <sup>nd</sup> by 11:55pm
Week 11 March 27 <sup>th</sup>	How do social determinants shape healthcare professionals’ experiences of their work? Minor Assignment OPTION F (last chance): (3.5%) due on OWL April 4 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm FINAL POWER HOUR
Week 12 April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	No new lecture/no power hour – extra office hours offered by your TA and professor for final concerns/questions

### Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

Assignment	Details	Value
Weekly Quizzes	8 Quizzes worth 3% each	24%
Minor Assignments	Students complete 4, worth 3.5% each	14%
Exam Questions	Due 11:55pm March 11 <sup>th</sup>	2%
Power Hour Participation	Attendance and quality of contribution	10%
Final Exam	Cumulative of all course content	50%

### Evaluation Details

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

Please note that you must have the selected assignments completed by 11:55pm on the Tuesday of the relevant week being engaged in that assignment. Late assignments will be penalised 1 percent upon submission. Most assignments require that you answer questions in full sentences. If point form is accepted, this will be indicated in the instructions.

### Weekly Quiz

The weekly quizzes are based on lecture and required reading/viewing for a particular week. These are 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. Quizzes are due at the end of each week, by Sunday night @ 11:55 pm. See OWL for quiz specific due dates.

Note: There are no makeup quizzes as you have a full week to complete these. **If you have a**

**university approved absence for a quiz (see Academic Consideration below)**, ensure you have had your inability to write a quiz approved by the Academic Advising office.

Once you have official academic consideration for missing a quiz, you will have 3% for your missed quiz added to your final exam grade. So, for example, if you miss 2 quizzes with documentation and approval of your absence by the Academic Advising office, your final exam will count for 56% instead of 50% of your final grade.

### **Minor Assignments**

There are 6 short assignments available to you throughout the term. You are required to select and **complete 4**. Short assignments are each worth 3.5% of your final grade each. We are looking for thoughtfulness and engagement with the course materials. There are no wrong answers when it comes to these assignments, but we do expect you to demonstrate that you have consulted and thought about your response drawing on relevant lecture or assigned reading materials. Assignments that are thoughtful and refer to relevant course material will receive an A: 3/3.5. Top 10 analyses in a given pool of assignments will receive a 3.5/3.5. The goal of these assignments is to apply your new social determinants of health lens and practice critical health studies analysis skills. Minor assignments will form the point of departure for discussions and activities in that week's Power Hour.

### **I wanted to do a particular minor assignment but did not meet the deadline: what are my options?**

- Do not complete that minor assignment
- You can submit a minor assignment late without an excuse, but in that case, you will automatically lose 1 mark (so, for example, a complete and thoughtful minor assignment submitted 5 minutes or 1 month late will get a 2/3.5 instead of a 3/3.5).
- You have until April 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 to submit late minor assignments. No minor assignments will be accepted after April 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

### **Exam Questions**

Due by 11:55pm on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 and submitted through OWL. See OWL for instructions. A small number of the multiple-choice and TRUE/FALSE questions submitted by students will be used for the final exam. You will submit 2 exam questions. Each question will be worth 1% of your final grade.

### **Power Hour Participation**

The Power Hour is the weekly tutorial in this course. Students should arrive at the Power Hour with a grasp of the materials and the completion of any assigned readings, films/videos, and self-directed activities (Power Hour assignments, where applicable – these are not weekly). Power Hour participation will be assessed based on attendance AND the quality of your interventions in discussions (chat-based or verbal participation). **Power Hour will begin the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>.**

By “quality” of your intervention, we are looking for evidence that:

1. You have done the assigned readings
2. You are gradually building up your familiarity with the vocabulary and explanatory frameworks being introduced in class
3. You are managing to make connections between topics addressed.

Your power point participation grade will be determined based on the following criteria:

Details	Value
Student attends all Power Hour tutorials; Student contributes actively and proactively in small and large group discussion. Student uses course material to inform their contributions and comes to tutorial with questions and discussion points prepared. Student oral contribution participation is superior to the majority in group in terms of quality of analysis, coherence, and integration of course content and concepts.	9-10%
Students attends all Power Hour tutorials and has done the readings/watched lectures. They are generally an active participant in small and group discussions. OR Student’s contributions are superior to the majority in group (see above) but student has not been able to demonstrate participation due to absences	8-9%
Student misses some power hours and is sometimes active, sometimes passive as a participant. Or Student attends all power hours but does not engage in way that shows familiarity with content.	5-7%
Poor attendance, Minimum or no contribution to class and group discussion.	0-4%

### **Final Exam**

Held during the exam period, the final exam will be cumulative (covering the entire semester) and worth 50% of your final grade. 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. At present, the plan is for an in-person exam (not open book). All required readings and videos, lectures, and power hour base PowerPoint content is testable.

### **Course Delivery with Respect to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading

scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

**In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction**, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

### **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.

1. 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
2. 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 SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;
- Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic advising office within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities



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

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 fall between 68 – 72%. 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.

### 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 power hours, take pictures of lecture material or tests/quizzes, or distribute any course content for nefarious purposes (E.g. for sale or to cheat on exams). These acts are ACADEMIC OFFENCES. 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 [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

### 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 Web site: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Additionally,

1. Taking photos of quiz and exam questions.

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

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 should refer to Mental Health@Western Mental Health Support - Health & Wellness - Western University (uwo.ca)for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or Thames Valley Family Services (<https://www.familyservicethamesvalley.com/>), a trusted provider within the community. To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: Health & Wellness - Western University (uwo.ca). 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.

**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. *Ombudsperson Office* -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

Concern	How to address concern
Course administrative matters	Read through the course outline or email instructor if question cannot be answered from information in the course outline
Course content questions	Refer to the OWL Resources (notes, calendar, etc). Email the instructor.

Grade disputes and requests for appeals	<p>A student requesting an appeal to a specific course with respect to a grade for an assignment or examination must first contact their instructor to discuss such matters.</p> <p>Visit the following website for guide on submitting an appeal: <a href="https://uwo.ca/fhs/policies/appeals.html">https://uwo.ca/fhs/policies/appeals.html</a></p>
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