

Western University

School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 3400A

Health Policy

Fall 2022 - Instructor: Dr. Denise Grafton

Lectures: Mondays, 11:30-12:30 and Thursdays 15:30 to 17:30

Location: Mondays – AHB 1R40, Thursdays – HSB-40

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 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

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

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, schedules, 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_DFAULT&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 two-hour lecture and ONE discussion hour. Students are responsible for assigned readings and should be prepared to discuss them in their discussion 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: October 31 to November 6, 2022

At least 15% of the final grade will be returned to students by November 9, 2022

First day of class: September 8, 2022

Mid-term examination: October 20, 2022

Group-prepared Policy Briefing Note: November 20, 2022

Evaluation:

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

Mid-term Examination: Thursday, October 20, 2022 – 30%

Health Policy Briefing Note (group project): Sunday, November 20, 2022 @ 11:55PM - 25%

Weekly Discussion (online): 5% for weekly lead role, 1% 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 20, 2022 from 3:30PM to 5:30PM

There will be a mid-term examination in class on Thursday, October 20, lasting 90 minutes & covering all material discussed in the course and discussions up to and including October 13th. The format of the examination will be a combination of multiple choice questions, short written answers and application questions.

b) Two Briefing Notes (25% - 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. Others may be selected as well, but only one choice will be guaranteed.

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 20, 2022.

c) In-person Group Discussion (15%)

5% for weekly lead role, 1% per week participation (x10 weeks)

Each Monday, we will hold a 50-minute “coffee hour” discussion to be held during class time. This discussion time will focus on contemporary health policy situations of interest. All students will be assigned a week where they will find one newspaper or other media 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) and we will discuss article topics selected by students.

You would need to also find one current (i.e. last 5 years, unless it's a seminal work) article on the same topic to academically support the selected article. Further details for the coffee hour ‘lead’ roles are provided in OWL.

Participation is mandatory in weekly coffee hour sessions as a component of the final course grade is achieved during class time. Five percent is allocated to ‘leading’ discussion and 1% per week for participation. Your participation will be recorded in a Google Document.

Please post your links to your articles 48 hours PRIOR to the session so that other students will have time to review them. Discussions will run Monday to Sunday each week.

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 2022.

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.

Common Concerns Guidelines:

Concern	How to address concern
Course administrative matters	Review Course outline and relevant pages in OWL.
Course content questions	All questions related to content should be posted to the OWL discussion board. If your response is not satisfactory, email your assigned TA for clarification. TAs will escalate issues to instructor as necessary.
Grade disputes and requests for appeals	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. Visit the following website for guide on submitting an appeal: https://uwo.ca/fhs/policies/appeals.html

Policies:

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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.

If you have missed a discussion week and have been absent from all of your classes for more than a week legitimate excuse, please contact your Teaching Assistant to discuss possible extensions. The discussion contributions already have a flexible due date (e.g. discussion class is on Monday, discussion due date is end of day the following Sunday).

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.

Contingencies for In-Person Classes Pivoting to Online Learning

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>.

Electronic devices

During Lectures and Discussions: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and discussion 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>)

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.

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) 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

(ii) 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 the 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

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

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.

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.**

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.