

GEOGRAPHY 2430A: PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT COURSE OUTLINE, FALL 2017

Instructor: Dr M Buzzelli

Office: Rm 2429 SSC

Office Hours: TBA,

Teaching Assistants: Emmanuel Asafo-Adjei, Alexandra Bozheva

Class Times: Mondays: 10:30 am – 12:20 pm, Lecture Room: SSC-2028

Tutorial Times: Wednesdays: 11:30-12:30 PM, UCC 61, 12:30-1:30 PM, UCC 61.

Course Description: This course introduces you to current issues in public health and the environment. Theory, method and case study discussions focus on the important role of geography in understanding and explaining patterns of diseases, health and health care in communities, regions and nations.

Learning Objectives:

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

- (1) identify and define the main geographical concepts related to the study of human health;
- (2) select the appropriate concepts and methodologies for the study of the geography of health;
- (3) communicate your ideas clearly and concisely in both verbal and written form.

Prerequisite: 1.0 course from Geography 1100, 1300A/B, 1400F/G, 1500F/G, 2131A/B, 2153A/B (taken after September 2012), or the former Geography 020E; Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B; or the former Health Sciences 1000; Sociology 1020, 1021E or enrollment in the Major in Ecosystem Health, or permission of the instructor.

Evaluation (assignments issued separately):

- Best 2 of 3 short policy briefings, 40% total (20% each)
- Mid-term test, 25%
- Final assignment, 25%
- Tutorial attendance/participation, 10%
 - Late assignments: Deducted 10% per day

Reading Material

Required: Geographies of Health – An Introduction, 3rd ed., by Anthony Gatrell and Susan Elliott [available at the Western bookstore]

In addition to the course text you will be asked to read various articles distributed in class/via the course web site/OWL.

- Check the lecture schedule for readings to be read prior to each class (i.e., the readings are the basis for lecture and tutorial discussion)

Course policies

Academic dishonesty: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

For UWO Policy on **Accommodation for Medical Illness:**

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Mental Health Website: If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health. Other policies:

1. Retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and graded assignments.
2. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments should discuss their commitments with the instructor.
3. Mobile telephones and any similar devices should be switched off during class. If you bring one to class, be sure to turn it off or you will be asked to leave. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.
4. Email within OWL, and/or office hours, are the only ways to contact your instructor/TAs.

Lecture Schedule			
Week	Lecture topic	Readings	Notes
1	Course introduction; History/concepts of (health) geography	Chapter 1	
2	Theoretical approaches	Chap. 2	
3	Epidemiology: understanding the literature	Oleckno, 2002	Assignment #1 issued
4	Health research methods	Chapters 3, 4	
5	Environmental health and disease ecology	Meade and Earickson, 2000; Chapters 11 – 13	
6	Environmental health, cont'd	Cont'd	
7	Mid-term test, in class		Mid-term test
8	October 9-13, Thanksgiving and Fall Reading Break		
9	Health inequalities	Chap. 5, 6	Assignment #2 issued
10	Cont'd – neighbourhoods and urban health	Galea and Vlahov, 2005	
11	Housing and health	Howden-Chapman, 2004	Assignment #3 issued
12	Knowledge translation and health care	Chap. 7, 8	
13	Last class - course review		Final assignment issued (due last day of term)

Tutorial Schedule	
Week	Topic (topics may change)
1	No tutorial
2	Is there a role for social theory in health research?
3	Assignment time
4	Methods debate
5	Health questionnaire design
6	Remedial help/test review/office hours
7	No tutorial
8	October 9-13, Thanksgiving and Fall Reading Break
9	Assignment time
10	How do we fix health inequalities?
11	TBA
12	Assignment time/office hours