

The UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

Department of Health Sciences

Winter 2011

Health Sciences 3290b (Section 001): Special Topics in Health Promotion – A Critical Examination of Obesity

Class Time & Place: Wednesday 230-530; B&GS-0165

Instructor: Dr. Nicholas Spence

Office, Phone & Email: Social Science 5212, (519) 661-2111 Ext. 87845, nspence@uwo.ca

Office Hours: TBA

Website: <http://webct.uwo.ca>

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with a view of the issues surrounding obesity in Western countries. A critical perspective is adopted focusing on the magnitude of the obesity "epidemic," its causes, impact, and potential solutions.

Prerequisite(s)

Unless you have either the requisites for this or a written special permission from your Dean (see your academic counselor) to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and will be deleted from your record. This deletion may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you drop from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Required Textbooks and Assigned Readings

Gard, Michael. 2011. *The End of the Obesity Epidemic*. Routledge: New York.

Oliver, J. Eric. 2007. *Fat Politics: The Real Story Behind America's Obesity Epidemic*. Oxford: New York.

In addition to the textbook readings, you are required to read hard-to-find articles which will be available online.

Videos and guest speakers are an integral part of the learning experience in this course. You will be responsible for the material associated with these modes of learning on your exams.

Grading Scheme

25% Mid Term Exam

20% Assignment

55% Final Exam

Mid Term Exam – 25% (TBA)

Since the goal of this course is to teach you to think critically about society, you will be expected to be able to apply concepts-merely memorizing material is not recommended. Performance on this exam will be a good indicator of your strengths and weaknesses, and I strongly encourage you to adapt and seek help as needed before the final exam.

Assignment -20% (TBA)

Students are expected to complete assignment. It will be composed of a combination of written work and a presentation to the class. Late assignments will be penalized at 10% per day. Detailed instructions for the assignment will be provided shortly.

Final Exam – 55% (TBA)

This exam will be cumulative. There will be surprises as the content and format will follow

Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office (Academic Counselor) in consultation with the student's instructor. Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates the onset, duration and severity of the illness that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete the course without such accommodation and supporting documentation.

for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently in effect between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)

Scantron Exams

“Computer-marked multiple-choice tests exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.”