

**The University of Western Ontario  
Faculty of Health Sciences**

**Health Sciences 4800G: Methods in Evidence-Based Practice**

**Tuesdays\* 10:30am – 1:30am, Talbot College Room 201**

**\*see tentative lecture schedule for class dates and times**

<http://>

### 3.0 COURSE OVERVIEW AND FORMAT

The primary goal of HS 4800G is to provide students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies with an opportunity for the continued development of reasoning and writing skills based on the integration of research evidence and critical thinking into practice. More specifically, students will gain and/or develop:

- The skills necessary to critically appraise published research
- An understanding of the role of research evidence in the field(s) of health studies
- Knowledge of the methods and designs used in health-related research
- Knowledge and experience related to the “art” of scientific writing
- Experience presenting conference-style (i.e., poster or lecture) presentations
- An in-depth knowledge of all aspects of scholarly writing, including ethical guidelines and APA formatting

### TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

*Changes to this lecture schedule (including change of locations) will be announced in class and on the course website.*

Tuesday January 4, 2011	Introduction to Evidence-Based Research
Tuesday January 11, 2011	The Nature of Research Generation of the Evidence-Based Research Question
Tuesday January 18, 2011	The Art of Scientific Writing
Tuesday January 25, 2011	Library Information Session: Database Searches
Tuesday February 1, 2011	Introduction to APA Guidelines Preparing (Lecture and Poster) Conference Presentations
Tuesday February 8, 2011	Academic CV Building Workshop Introduction to the Publication Process
Tuesday February 15, 2011	Introduction to Grant Writing Graduate School/Professional Applications
Tuesday February 22, 2011	READING WEEK
Tuesday March 1, 2011	Critical Appraisal of Qualitative Methods
Tuesday March 8, 2011	Critical Appraisal of Quantitative Methods
Tuesday March 15, 2011	Critical Appraisal of Reviews and Meta-Analyses
Tuesday March 22, 2011	Introduction to Knowledge Translation





comprehensive analysis of the suitability of each article for answering your research question. If the articles you are evaluating are available electronically through our library system, a full reference will suffice – otherwise, a photocopy or PDF file of the article will be required.

In the Discussion section, you will use the information you have drawn from the articles reviewed to present “where the field is at” given the particular problem posed. You are also to articulate current controversies (if there isn’t consensus on the issue), and outline what needs to be known in order to reach agreement on “best practice”. You are also to come up with recommendations for use in practice. Your recommendations should follow from your review of the results – thus, while you must provide an “answer” to your research question, you should also provide limitations to your conclusion, based on methodological flaws in the reviewed literature. Combined, the Results and Discussion sections should be less than 10 pages in length.

### **4.3 Final Conference Presentation**

The final product in this course will be a conference presentation, in which you summarize your question, the research that has been done on the topic, the quality of the results, and your final conclusion. This presentation will be evaluated by one of the course instructors. Hence, it is critical that you provide the instructor with all of the information that is needed to evaluate the evidence for your hypothesis. All conference presentations will be made on March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>. Grading for the assignment will comprise two components: conference proceedings, and the actual oral (poster or lecture) presentation.

#### **4.3.1 Conference Proceedings**

The purpose of the conference proceedings is to acquaint you with the process of writing a short symposium paper.

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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> .

**Plagiarism:** 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 offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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 (