

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES

HEALTH SCIENCES 3071B/ DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

WINTER 2020

Instructor: Dr. Carla Silva

Office: Arthur and Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building (HSB), Room 345

Email: csilva42@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Thursday, 1.15-2.15

Date/Time: Thursday 2.30-5.30

TA: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Determinants of health and disease entails a journey of reflection into the discourses (academic, political, public) regarding what matters when it comes to one's chances of living a healthy life. This reflection focusses on two related yet distinctive issues: health and health care. Disparities in the access to health care, although important, do not account for inequities in basic health. Students will be challenged to reflect upon their own situation of privilege/disadvantage; to discuss sensitive issues with fellow students with openness; to make ethical judgements and to envision strategies to tackle some of the problems identified in different professional scenarios. This course promotes the development of critical and intellectual empathy skills important for

EVALUATION

| | Submission date (OWL) | % |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Participation in the intellectual empathy labs | | 10 % |
| 3. Intellectual empathy lab+ reflection | One week after the lab takes place. | 15% |
| 2. Fictional Text +Commentary | 14 th February | 15% |
| 6. Fictional Text +Commentary | 29 th March | 30% |
| 7. Exam | TBA | 30% |

All the assignments are to be submitted as a Word file through the assignment tool in OWL, by the end of the submission date (11.00 pm).

1. Participation. All the sessions in the course require not only your attendance, but also your active participation. This is particularly important during the intellectual empathy labs. Excellent participation is evident when your interventions are respectful of others' views, insightful and anchored in reflective engagement with the course materials. Each intellectual empathy lab attended in which participation has been positive is awarded 1% of the mark. In case of (justified) non-attendance, a student can submit an individual task to be granted 1%. In case of unjustified absence this opportunity is not available. Be aware that in each lab, you will be receiving guidance and working towards your assignments.
2. Intellectual empathy lab + reflection. In groups of two, you will plan a short session (app. 40 min.) to engage your peers in discussion and reflection on a specific topic related to the theme of the week. The facilitation of that session in class will be individual (to allow for small groups of 10 students or less to be formed). After the initial sessions, you will have a more solid understanding of what this assignment entails. On OWL, you will find a resource to help you design your intellectual empathy lab.

Following this session, the group will submit a reflective report; explaining how the session explored the weekly theme; describing and commenting on the insights shared and reflecting upon how this activity expanded your knowledge and skills (see *intellectual empathy lab reflective report* resource on OWL). The required length for this report is between 800 and 1000 words and it must be submitted as a Word file through the assignment tool in OWL no later than 11 p.m., the following Thursday. In appendix, you must also include the session plan.

3. Fictional text + Commentary. In order to expand your intellectual empathy skills, you will be required to interact with the novel Scarborough and write fictional short texts depicting plausible events and situations in the context of the novel, focusing on the difficult negotiation between social determinants/ structures and health promotion goals. The assignment also entails a commentary explaining how these texts enact important concepts and topics explored in the course (please refer to academic sources). During the labs, you will engage in activities that will help you develop and refine your assignment. The requirement length for this assignment is between 700 and 800 words for the text+ 700 to 800 words for the commentary (1400 to 1600 words in total). Submit your fictional plus text+ commentary as a Word file through the assignment tool in OWL no later than 11.00 pm on 202002.14.

Please use the OWL mail system to communicate with your faculty instructor on issues related to this course or to book a meeting outside of the office hours. These will be answered these twice/ week, so do not expect an immediate reply.

Grade Adjustments

Final grades in this course will be taken to the closest intey b

- x Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;
- x 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.

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

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health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre as part of their registration fees. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page ([http://www.westernu.ca/faculty-of-music](#))