

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Western University
School of Health Studies

**Health Sciences 3910G (Winter 2020)
Fundamentals of Academic Communication in
the Health Sciences**

Course Outline

Instructor: Shauna Burke, PhD January 2020
Email: sburke9@uwo.ca
Class time: Tuesdays 10:30am – 1:30pm
Class location: UCC 41
Office Hour: Wednesdays 12:00pm – 1:00pm (HSB 337)

| Teaching Assistant (TA) | E-mail | Office Hours |
|-------------------------|--------|--------------|
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A. Course Description

The objective of this course is to have students gain an understanding of and practical experience related to the skills and knowledge required to effectively communicate health-related research to various audiences. In order to accomplish this, students will be introduced to a variety of practices in communicating health information in both academic and applied settings. Topics include (but are not limited to) an introduction to knowledge translation, critical appraisal in evidence-based practice, effective writing and presenting skills, poster and infographic presentations, stakeholder and community engagement, and the practice of preparing brief but informative speeches. This course is strongly recommended for students considering practica or independent study courses in the future, and is geared toward students who are considering graduate school. The course is an essay course.

There may be some occasions in which the final hour of class (Tuesdays 12:30pm – 1:30pm) will be allotted to partner or small group work. We will NOT meet

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.music.uwo.ca/>), or the McIntosh Gallery (<http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/> (n38)-1.6 (-5.4 (hgal)-2.3 (l)-2.2 (

Rounding of Grades
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Use of Laptops During Class

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:

- a. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;
- c. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- d. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- e. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations (i.e., "bellringers");
- f. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;
- g. Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed.

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, 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>).

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/ssd/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>