The University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies

Rehabilitation Sciences 4212A
**Innovations in Rehabilitation**

<u>Course Information</u>

Rehabilitation care providers are well-situated within tertiary care centres to help people with severe disabling conditions to optimize their recovery and better manage the ongoing health challenges that they all too frequently face. This course examines both conceptual and practical approaches to **innovations** in rehabilitation practice including those that incorporate: 1) health promotion /self-management perspectives, 2) high-intensity activity-based approaches, 3) eHealth and m-health solutions and 4) evidence-informed ways to implement practice change. Examples will focus on neuro-rehabilitation practice associated with persons with spinal cord and acquired brain injury.

**More Specific Information:** This course will examine practical and special considerations when planning, implementing and evaluating rehabilitation programs for people with disabling conditions. In particular, this will involve an exploration of the following: introduction to the relationship between disability and health, identification of particular health challenges faced by people with disabilities (with a focus on those with spinal cord injuries or acquired brain injuries) and examination of current and emerging trends in rehabilitation practice as related to self-management, therapy intensity e-health and best-practice implementation. Practical applications will be introduced that focus on the role of physical activity (including activity-based therapies) in maintaining health and wellness of people with disability.

**Primary Learning Objective**: It is expected that the student will achieve a clear understanding of the **practice and issues associated with innovative rehabilitation programming** and **best practice implementation** within a rehabilitation setting. This will include exploring **challenges** to bringing innovations into practice as well as achieving an understanding of **how an inter-disciplinary works together to deliver the best care possible** (and also to achieve **continuous quality improvement**).

## Course Materials

Due to copyright regulations, all materials may not be posted to the course website (OWL). However, required readings will consist of pertinent articles from the scientific literature that are either freely

and so on for successive weeks (with the exception of reading week). The instructor will illustrate and emphasize key points from these interviews within the lecture materials.

2. To prepare a proposal to develop an innovative intervention targeting people with disabilities. This must involve a rehabilitation program which, in part, involves some form of **behaviour change** and/or **incorporates the facilitation of self-management**. Alternatively, this project can focus on **implementing a practice change** by clinicians – especially one that would be thought of as an **innovative new way to practice**. This project

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;

- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;

- **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;

- **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**

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 --