Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Epidemiology 9526T
Grant Writing and Peer Review
Winter 2017

Time: Friday 9:30 – 12:30
Location: MSB 193CD
T.A.: Vinusha Kalatharan
E-mail: vkalatha@uwo.ca

Instructor: Kathy Nixon Speechley, PhD
Office Hours: After class or by appointment
E-mail: Kathy.speechley@lhsc.on.ca
Phone Extension: 52182

Course Description
This course focuses on professional skills development in proposal writing, and provides a context within the health research funding environment in Canada. Strategies for presentation of proposed research, formative work with pilot data or background research, and grant structure will be covered. Students will also gain strategies and skills in peer reviewing grants and manuscripts.

Prerequisite: Epidemiology 9551A and Biostats 9509A or 9510A

Course Schedule 2017

Week 1  March   3  Introduction to course and to peer review
Week 2  March  10  Grant writing process and research funding environment
Week 3  March 17  Components of a research proposal and formative work
Week 4  March 24  Peer review of manuscripts for publication
Week 5  March 31  Grant writing structure and strategies
Week 6  April   7  Challenges and pitfalls to overcome for positive reviews
Week 7  April 14*  Presentations: Reviews of Brief Research Proposals
  *Date may change.

Course Materials
There are no required textbooks for this course. Weekly readings will be accessed on OWL.

Methods of Evaluation

- Participation  10%
- Presentation  15%  (present summary to class of a topic assigned as reading)
- Assignments  30%  (review of a manuscript & critique a grant review 15% each)
- Group project  30%  (Brief research proposal)
- Peer Review of a Brief Research Proposal 15%  presented in Week 7

Students are expected to work independently on material submitted for evaluation.

If there are extenuating circumstances interfering with ability to meet any course expectations on time, students need to inform the instructor as soon as the situation arises. If the instructor has not granted a deadline extension in advance, late assignments will be penalized by 10% per day late.
Policy on Accommodation for Medical and Non-Medical Absences
For assignments worth 10% or more, refer to Western University’s Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm.

All non-medical absences must be approved in advance. In the case of an unexpected absence on compassionate grounds, documentation may be requested. If documentation is required by the instructor for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean’s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Statement on Academic Offences
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Support Services
As part of a successful student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate or undergraduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.

Department & Faculty Offices
The Epidemiology & Biostatistics main office is located in K201 in the Kresge Building on Main campus.