

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Epidemiology 9540S Health Services Research Winter 2020

Lecture: Wednesdays 10:30 AM -1:30 PM
Dates: Jan 8 – Feb 19 (includes exam)
Location: Kresge Building 116

Instructor: Dr. Maria Mathews
Office Hours: after class or by appointment
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Phone Extension: 20678

Research “designed to improve the way health care services are organized, regulated, managed, financed, paid for, used and delivered, in the interest of improving the health and quality of life of all Canadians.”

- Institute for Health Services and Policy Research, 2019: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/13733.html>

“Health services research is the multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and ultimately our health and well-being. Its research domains are individuals, families, organizations, institutions, communities, and populations”

- Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy, 2002: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1430351/>

Course Information

Pre-Requisite Information: Foundations of Epidemiology (9551A). Unless you have the pre-requisites for this course or written special permission from the Graduate Chair to enrol, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recall the development of public health insurance programs in Canada and the principles of the Canada Health Act;
- Describe the federal and provincial governments’ responsibility related to health care;
- Identify the features of regulated health professions;
- Use appropriate terminology to describe health sectors and funding models;
- Understand the private and public funding models for health services in Canada;
- Describe and critically appraise secondary data produced through the administration and delivery of health services, public health surveillance, and professional regulation; and
- Describe how these secondary data can be used in health services and policy research.

Course Materials

There are no mandatory textbooks for this course. The weekly readings will be provided by the instructor on the course's OWL website.

Methods of Evaluation

- 30% assignment 1: media article analysis **Due Feb 5, 2019; 5PM**
- 40% assignment 2: concept paper **Due Feb 19, 2019; 5PM**
- 30% end of term examination **Feb 19, 2019; during class time**

Detailed expectations for each assignment and the examination will be posted on the OWL website.

While students are encouraged to ask questions and seek help, it is expected that students will develop the ability to resolve assignment related issues and propose solutions with a degree of independence appropriate for students at their level of graduate training. The student's independence in completing course work may be considered in grading.

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.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
1	Jan 8	Public health insurance in Canada	TBA
2	Jan 15	Health system terminology	TBA
3	Jan 22	Physician payment and billing data	TBA
4	Jan 29	Health workforce	TBA
5	Feb 5	Allied health services outside hospitals	TBA
6	Feb 12	Federal responsibility for health	TBA
7	Feb 19	Examination	TBA

Policy on Accommodation for Medical and Non-Medical Absences

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 for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student to the instructor.

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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

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>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Policy on Recording Classes

Classes may not be audio-recorded without advance written permission from the instructor and other students, and may not be video-recorded. Permission will not be granted for classes involving unpublished materials from the instructor or others.

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/>

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

USC Student Support Services: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

SGPS Life & Community web page: https://grad.uwo.ca/life_community/self/index.html

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.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Student Accessibility Services

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both SAS and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Department & Faculty Offices

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

Technology Requirements

You are responsible for all required course materials and announcements posted to the course's OWL website. Please ensure after the first class that when you log in you are able to access the course site. A copy of the course outline will be available on both OWL and the departmental website.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is committed to ensuring that testing and evaluation are undertaken fairly across all our departments and programs. For all tests and exams, it is the policy of the School and the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics that any electronic devices, i.e., cell phones, tablets, cameras, or iPod are strictly prohibited. These devices **MUST** be left either at home or with the student's bag/jacket at the front of the room and **MUST NOT** be at the test/exam desk or in the individual's pocket.

Any student found with one of these prohibited devices will receive a grade of zero on the test or exam. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.