

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Epidemiology 9526U Grant Writing and Peer Review

Course Outline for Summer 2022

In-person Classes:

Wednesdays 9:30-12:30
May 4 – June 15
PHFM 3015

Instructor: Dr. Kathy Nixon Speechley

Office Hours: By appointment

E-mail: kathy.speechley@lhsc.on.ca

Course Description

This course focuses on professional skills development in research proposal writing and the peer review process for grant applications and manuscripts. It provides a context for grant submission 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 are discussed as are strategies for peer reviewing grants and manuscripts.

Course Information

Enrollment in this course is reserved for graduate students in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, as well as any student who has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home graduate program.

Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives

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

- Describe the principles of peer review process for research grants
- Write a review of a research grant application
- Describe the principles of peer review process for journal articles
- Write a review of a research manuscript

Course Materials

All resources will be posted in OWL.

There is no text book required for this course.

Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic
1	May 4	Introduction to Course; Foundations
2	May 11	Writing a Grant Proposal; Initial discussion- proposed topics & objectives
3	May 18	Peer review of manuscripts for publication; Practice skills
4	May 25	Grantsmanship and proposal writing; Practice skills
5	June 1	Strategies for positive reviews within context Of CIHR process
6	June 8	Grantsmanship as applicant and as reviewer
7	June 15	Peer review of proposals prepared for course

Add/Audit/Drop Deadline: within 10 business days of the start of the course

Methods of Evaluation

Note: this is a Pass/Fail course. To pass the course, students must obtain an overall mark of 75%

Assessment	Format	Weight	Due Date
Participation in discussions & skills practice; Peer reviews	In class	40%	Each class
Presentation	Make presentation in class on assigned topic and lead discussion on topic (group)	20%	Week assigned
Assignment	Peer review of manuscript (group)	20%	Week 4 (May 25)
Assignment	Overview of main components of proposal (group)	20%	Week 6 (June 8)

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without self-reported absences will be subject to a late penalty 10%/day
- Late assessments with self-reported absences should be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period

Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

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>).

Statement on Copyright and Audio/Video Recording

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws.

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/>.

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

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

Academic Support and Engagement: <http://academicsupport.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 Chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Health and Wellness-related information and services are available at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

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

Accessible Education Western (AEW)

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 strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW 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.

More information and access to services is available on the AEW website:
http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Department & Faculty Offices

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is located on the third floor of the Western Centre for Public Health & Family Medicine (PHFM) on Western University's 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.