

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Epidemiology 9553B / 3210B

Analytic Epidemiology

Course outline for Winter 2022



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

2. Course Overview and Important Dates:



Delivery Mode / Location	Dates	Time
On-line (until at least January 31 st)	W//F	9am-10:20am
In-Person (tentatively, after January 31 st) in PHFM3015	W//F	9am-10:20am

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Exam Period
January 12	February 19-27	April 8	April 10 – April 30

* February 26, 2021: Last day to drop the course or a first-term full course without penalty

3. Contact Information

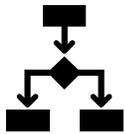


Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Igor Karp, MD MPH PhD	Use OWL message or email address: ikarp@uwo.ca
Teaching Assistants	Contact Information
Surim Son	sson8@uwo.ca
Brooke Carter	bcarte26@uwo.ca

4. Course Description and Design

The purpose of the course is to consolidate and advance the students' critical understanding of the theory of medical etiological research, with particular emphasis on validity and methods for its assurance in this genre of research.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual or In-person, synchronous	W/F	9am-10:20am	weekly



Attendance at synchronous sessions is required

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; upyou're your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape necessitates some or all of the course to be delivered online, synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

When deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

5. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Dates	Topic
1	Jan 12-14	Course introduction and orientation
2	Jan 19-21	Overview of 'study designs'
3	Jan 26-28	Etiology as the object of study
4	Feb 2-4	Objects design
5	Feb 9-11	Selection bias
6	Feb 16-18	Information bias
7	Feb 23-25	<i>Reading week: No classes</i>
8	Mar 2-4	Confounding bias
9	Mar 9-11	Methods for dealing with confounding
10	Mar 16-18	Efficiency optimization. Effect-measure modification
11	Mar 23-25	Student presentations
12	Mar 30 Apr 1	Student presentations
13	Apr 6-8	Student presentations
	TBA	<i>Final examination</i>

6. Online Participation and Engagement



Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible

7. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Home assignment #1	TBA	10	March 6
Home assignment #2	Term paper	20	April 25
Presentation		25	March 23 - April 8
Final exam	Multiple choice and short answers	45	TBA

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Virtual proctoring may be used

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.



A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without self-reported absences will be subject to a late penalty 5 %/day
- Late assessments with self-reported absences should be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period.

8. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 48 hours
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using OWL “messages”
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours

9. Office Hours:



- Office hours will be held remotely (using Zoom) on in-person, by appointment
- Group office hours will be available

10. Resources



- All resources will be posted in OWL
- Recommended textbooks:
 - Szklo M, Nieto FJ. *Epidemiology: Beyond the basics*, 4th ed. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2018.
 - Rothman KJ. *Epidemiology: An introduction*, 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. (or: 1st ed., 2002)
- Supplementary textbooks:
 - Miettinen OS, Karp I. *Epidemiological research: An introduction*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2012.

11. Professionalism & Privacy:



Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed

12. How to Be Successful in this Class:



Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.

3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

13. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must seek approval for the absence as soon as possible. Approval can be granted either through a **self-reported absence** or via the **Academic Counselling** unit. Students have two self-reports to use throughout the academic year; absence from course commitments including tests, quizzes, presentations, labs, and assignments that are worth 30% or less can be self-reported. Self-reported absences cover a student for 48 hours (yesterday + today or today + tomorrow). Your instructor will receive notification of your consideration; however, you should contact your instructor immediately regarding your absence. Students are expected to submit missed work within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Please review details of the [university's policy on academic consideration for student absences](#).

If you have used both their self-reported absences or will miss more than 48 hours of course requirements, a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) should be signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner and you should contact academic counselling. Academic Counselling will be operating virtually this year and can be contacted at scibmsac@uwo.ca.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](#).

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Academic Offenses

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. 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 Western University and [Turnitin.com](#).

14. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy (for in-person tests and exams)

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 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 program is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

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. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks **WILL NOT** be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will **NOT** be bumped up to an 80, an 84 **WILL NOT** be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark "bumping" will be denied.

15. Support Services

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

[Academic Counselling \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)