Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Epidemiology 9526
Grant Writing and Peer Review

Course Outline for Summer 2023

In-person Classes:
Mondays 11-2
May 1 – June 12
Location: PHFM 3015

Instructor: Dr. Joel Gagnier
Office Hours: By appointment
E-mail: jgagnie2@uwo.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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Course; Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Writing a Grant Proposal; Initial discussion- proposed topics &amp; objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Peer review of manuscripts for publication; Practice skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>May 22 (virtual)</td>
<td>CIHR Processes for Research Grant Applications &amp; Peer Review of Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Integrating Sex &amp; Gender into Health Research Knowledge Translation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Grantsmanship as applicant and as reviewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Mock CIHR Review Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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%

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

**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).

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.

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

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

**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](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.

**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.