

**Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics****Epidemiology 9518T  
Advanced Analysis of Population Health Data  
Winter 2023****Lecture/Lab:**

Monday, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
PHFM 3015

**Instructor:** Piotr Wilk**Office Hours:** By appointment**E-mail:** pwilk3@uwo.ca**Course Description**

This hands-on seminar will allow students to explore more advanced topics related to epidemiological observational studies with a particular focus on analysis of general population survey data. Students will work in small groups to continue the research projects that they initiated in the Epidemiology 9516S course (Analysis of Population Health Data). By the end of this course, students will be able to produce a draft of a publishable manuscript on the effects of demographic, socio-economic, and behavioural factors on a selected health outcome. Students will participate in group sessions to complete their research projects. Students who are interested in submitting their manuscripts for publication after the end of the course will have the opportunity to access the confidential Canadian Community Health Survey microdata at the Research Data Centre (RDC) at Western.

**Course Information**

Prerequisites: Enrollment in the graduate program in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and successful completion of Epidemiology 9516S (Analysis of Population Health Data).

**Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

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

- formulate research questions
- prepare and clean survey data files for further analysis
- generate basic descriptive statistics
- build and test linear regression models
- build and test models for categorical variables
- address some of the methodological challenges of working with survey data
- interpret and present the results

## Course Materials

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

## Methods of Evaluation

The evaluation components and the grade distribution may change, based on the class size; any deviations will be communicated. If for any reason students are unable to meet any of the course requirements, it is essential that they inform the instructor in advance or as soon as they are aware of the situation.

- 20% - Research Project – Presentation (due April 3)
- 60% - Research Project – Manuscript (due April 5)
- 15% - Research Project – Peer review (due April 7)
- 5% - Participation

## Course Timeline and Format

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
1	February 27	Course overview	See OWL
2	March 6	Group work	See OWL
3	March 13	Group work	See OWL
4	March 20	Group work	See OWL
5	March 27	Group work	See OWL
6	April 3	Public presentations	See OWL

## 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](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.

### **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.

### **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](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](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.