

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Epidemiology 3200A

Epidemiology II

Course outline for Fall 2020



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	Dates	Time
On-line	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
September 9	November 2 – 8	December 8	December 9 - 22

* November 12, 2020: Last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course without penalty

3. Contact Information



Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Igor Karp	Use OWL message or email address: ikarp@uwo.ca

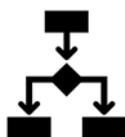
Teaching Assistant	Contact Information
TBA	TBA

4. Course Description and Design

The purpose of the course is to introduce the students to the general concepts, terms, and basic principles of epidemiological research.

Prerequisites: Statistics/Biology 2244A/B with a mark of at least 75%, Epidemiology 2200A/B.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual synchronous	W/F	9am-10:30am	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](#).

5. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic
1	Sept 9 – 11	Course introduction and orientation
2	Sept 16 – 18	The practice of epidemiology and concepts surrounding it
3	Sept 23 – 25	Concepts surrounding epidemiological research
4	Sept 30 – Oct 2	Essence of epidemiological research
5	Oct 7 – 9	Absolute measures of occurrence of epidemiologic phenomena
6	Oct 14 – 16	Relative measures of occurrence of epidemiologic phenomena
7	Oct 21 – 23	Concepts of causality
8	Oct 8 – 30	Etiology as a pragmatic concern
9	Nov 4 – 6	Reading Week
10	Nov 11 – 13	Midterm examination
11	Nov 18 – 20	Typology of epidemiological studies
12	Nov 25 – 27	Etiology as the object of study
13	Dec 2 – 4	Case-control studies. Cohort studies
	TBA	Final examination



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		10	TBA
Home assignment #2		10	TBA
Midterm exam	Multiple choice and short answers	30	
Final exam	Multiple choice and short answers	50	

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Virtual proctoring will 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, by appointment
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using Sign Up on OWL
- Group office hours will be available

10. Resources



- All resources will be posted in OWL
- Strongly recommended textbook:
Rothman KJ. *Epidemiology: An introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012
 - Or: Rothman KJ. *Epidemiology: An introduction*. 1st edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002

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. Important Policy Information

Statement on Copyright and Audio/Video Recording

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

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.

1. 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](#).

2. 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.

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.

3. 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](#)