

4310A: PUBLIC HEALTH

Fall, 2020

Logistics

Class: Monday: 9:30-11:30
Wednesday: 9:30-10:30

Instructor: Greta Bauer, PhD, MPH K200 Kresge
Professor, Epidemiology & Biostatistics gbauer@uwo.ca

Office hours: Video or voice meetings by appointment

Description: A course on the fundamental principles and methods of Public Health (e.g. disease surveillance, outbreak investigations) as practiced by agencies such as Public Health Agency of Canada and local Health Units. Assignments will be based on actual public health problems. Both local and international perspectives will be introduced.

Communication: I have set up a messages tab in OWL, which will be checked at least once daily on weekdays during the course. On teaching days (Monday and Wednesday), I will always be available during course hours, and can also schedule appointments at other times of the day.

Materials

Readings, Assignments, and Supplemental Materials

- Downloadable via course site (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>).
- Materials on OWL are organized into weekly modules. For asynchronous learning sessions, short videos will be posted providing an overview of readings to help guide study. Additional mini-lecture videos will provide overviews on key topic areas.

Technology requirements

- Computer
- Internet connection
- Microphone
- Web camera recommended

Evaluation

Final course marks are based on the following components. The first two are individual assignments, and the second two are group assignments.

Course contributions – Attendance/discussion (asynchronous and synchronous)	15%
Assignment 1 – Summary of key conceptual framework for public health	15%
Assignment 2 – Critique of media report	15%
Assignment 3 – Group preliminary video presentation on public health strategy	15%
Final assignment – Public health strategy summary	40%

Active course contributions

Students are expected to participate in scheduled online conversation sessions (everyone can miss one without penalty), to contribute advance questions for guest speakers, and to work collaboratively toward public health strategies.

Assignments

Details on assignments are included in the Assignments tab on OWL.

Late assignments

Late assignments will receive a deduction of 5% of possible marks per day, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Schedule

* S= synchronous; A = asynchronous

Note that during asynchronous work periods on the schedule, the professor will be available on OWL during all regular course times for chat and informal tutorial meetings.

Wk	Day	S/A*	Topic
1	Wed Sept 9	S	Introduction: What is public health?
2	Mon Sept 14	A	Impact of SARS on public health infrastructure in Canada
	Wed Sept 16	S	Individual meetings with professor (throughout day) Conversation: Impact of SARS on public health infrastructure (and what that has meant for COVID)
3	Mon Sept 21	A	Public health and the concept of health equity
	Wed Sept 23	S	Conversation: Equity stratifiers and multidimensionality
4	Mon Sept 28	A	Introduction to social frameworks in public health
	Wed Sept 30	S	Conversation: Why public health needs theory
5	Mon Oct 5	A	Introduction to behavioural frameworks in public health
	Wed Oct 7	S	Conversation: Uses and limitations of theoretical frameworks
6	Mon Oct 12		Thanksgiving – university closed
	Wed Oct 14	S	Outbreak investigation lab
7	Mon Oct 19	A	Public health research and practice and the media
	Wed Oct 21	S	Conversation: Public health communication
8	Mon Oct 26	A	Building public health and community collaborations

	Wed Oct 28	S	Meet the experts: Partnership building and community-based research
	Mon Nov 2		Fall reading week – no class
	Wed Nov 4		Fall reading week – no class
9	Mon Nov 9	A	Public health strategies and policies
	Wed Nov 11	S	Meet the experts: Public health strategy and policy
10	Mon Nov 16	A	Student video presentations and feedback
	Wed Nov 18	S	Building public health strategies
11	Mon Nov 23	A	Public health in action – Integrating what we've learned
	Wed Nov 25	S	Meet the experts: Planning and implementing public health change
12	Mon Nov 30	A	Work session on public health strategies
	Wed Dec 2	S	Revisiting the role of epidemiology and biostatistics in public health
13	Fri Dec 11		Final assignments due

Important Policy Information

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

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.

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](#)