

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Epidemiology 4310A

Public Health
Fall 2021

Class Times:

Monday, 9:30-11:30, NCB 293

Wednesday, 9:30-10:30, NCB 293

Instructor: Greta Bauer

Office Hours: By appointment

Messages: Please use Messages tab in OWL for course-related messaging

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Course 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.

Course Information

Prerequisites/Corequisites: Biostatistics 3100A, Epidemiology 3200A

Anti-requisites: None

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives

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

- Outline Canada's public health infrastructure
- Describe and employ key public health theoretical frameworks
- Understand the role of research in public health policy and practice
- Identify different models for involvement of community and stakeholders in public health research
- Apply their public health knowledge to a real-world public health problem to develop an interdisciplinary cross-sectoral strategy

Course Materials

Course materials will be provided on the course's OWL website, with readings and other materials organized into weekly modules.

Assignments and 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 (in person and online)	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%

Assignment details are included in the Assignments tab on OWL.

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

Course Timeline

Wk	Day	Topic
1	Mon Sept 13	Introduction: What is public health?
	Wed Sept 15	Small-group meetings with professor (throughout day)
2	Mon Sept 20	Impact of SARS on public health infrastructure in Canada
	Wed Sept 22	Conversation: Impact of SARS on public health infrastructure
3	Mon Sept 27	Public health and the concept of health equity
	Wed Sept 29	Conversation: Equity stratifiers and multidimensionality
4	Mon Oct 4	Introduction to social frameworks in public health
	Wed Oct 5	Conversation: Why public health needs theory
5	Mon Oct 11	Thanksgiving – university closed
	Wed Oct 13	Introduction to behavioural frameworks in public health
6	Mon Oct 18	Conversation: Uses and limitations of theoretical frameworks
	Wed Oct 20	Public health research and practice and the media
7	Mon Oct 25	Outbreak investigation lab
	Wed Oct 27	Conversation: Public health communication
	Mon Nov 1	Fall reading week – no class
	Wed Nov 3	Fall reading week – no class
8	Mon Nov 8	Building public health and community collaborations
	Wed Nov 10	Meet the experts: Partnership building and community-based research
9	Mon Nov 15	Public health strategies and policies
	Wed Nov 17	Meet the experts: Public health strategy and policy
10	Mon Nov 22	Student video presentations and feedback

	Wed Nov 24	Building public health strategies
11	Mon Nov 29	Public health in action – Integrating what we’ve learned
	Wed Dec 1	Meet the experts: Planning and implementing public health change
12	Mon Dec 6	Work session on public health strategies
	Wed Dec 8	Revisiting the role of epidemiology and biostatistics in public health
13	Fri Dec 16	Final assignments due

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 Western’s [Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#) policy for more details.

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.

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](#).

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, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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 lectures or discussions, 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/>.

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

USC Student Support Services: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement: <http://academicsupport.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 or Undergraduate 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. More information and access to services is available on the AEW website: 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.