

Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences
Community-Engaged Learning and Research Skills in Interdisciplinary Medical
Sciences Medical Sciences 4995E

Course Syllabus for Fall/Winter 2022



Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**; therefore, your health and wellness matter to us! The following link provides information about the resources available on and off campus to support students: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> Your course coordinator can also **guide you** to resources and/or services should you need them.

1. **Technical Requirements:**



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

2. **Important Dates:**



Classes Begin	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 8	October 31– November 6	December 8	December 9	December 10–22

* November 30, 2022: Last day to drop a first-term full course without penalty

Classes Resume	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 9	February 18-26	April 10	April 11-12	April 13–30

3. **Contact Information**



Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Dr. Sarah McLean	Sarah.mclean@schulich.uwo.ca

Instructor(s) or Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information
Danielle Colussi	dcoluss@uwo.ca
Omar Almomani	oalmoman@uwo.ca
Victor Hoe-Kin Lam	hlam242@uwo.ca
Rebekah Gilliland	lgillil@uwo.ca
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Kevin McIntyre	kmcint67@uwo.ca

4. Course Description and Design

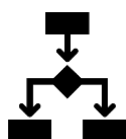
Delivery Mode: blended

This capstone course focuses on science literacy, scientific communication, biological and societal influences on health, evidence-based approaches, identifying and meeting the needs of stakeholders, and interdisciplinary interventions. Students engage both independently and collaboratively in authentic learning experiences and practice critical ongoing reflection.

Antirequisites: Medical Sciences 4990E, the former Medical Sciences 4300A

Prerequisites: A course from Group 3 in the Honours Specialization in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences (IMS) and registration in Year 4 of an Honours Specialization in IMS.

Co-requisites: Medical Sciences 4930F must be taken concurrently



Timetabled Sessions

Component	Date(s)	Time
Lecture	M	1:30-2:20pm
Seminar/Tutorial	T/Th	9:30-11:30am OR 11:30-1:30pm

- Asynchronous pre-work must be completed prior to sessions
- Attendance at sessions is required
- Missed work should be completed within 24 hours
- Closed captioning will be provided on audio or video recordings

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; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

4. Learning Outcomes



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

- Create a professional, practical, and evidence-based deliverable to promote health initiatives in the greater London community
- Articulate the intersectionality between pathophysiological, epidemiological, biochemical factors and social determinants to investigate the basis of conditions such as addiction, poverty, psychosis, and homelessness
- Effectively communicate scientific and health literature to a broad audience, including non-experts, community partners, and peers.
- Critique primary scientific literature by summarizing the main findings and identifying the strengths, weaknesses, and limitations within a research study.
- Collaborate effectively by demonstrating respect for others, respect for different points of view, beliefs, and values, and taking on leadership, where appropriate.

5. Course Content and Schedule

Fall Term



Week	Dates	EL Skills Sessions	Tutorial Topic (Tuesdays)	Work Period Focus (Thursdays)
1	Sept 8–11	N/A Labour day	N/A	N/A
2	Sept 12–18	Welcome to Capstone	What is this course about?	Getting to know one another
3	Sept 19–25	Professionalism	Intercultural Communication and Ubuntu	Strengths, Values and CEL project selection
4	Sept 26–Oct 2	Project Charters and Teams	Empathy & Perspective-Taking	Team Formation and Team Charter Creation
5	Oct 3–9	Critical Reflection	Key issues in London, Ontario	Work period-understanding your CEL project
6	Oct 10–16	Thanksgiving Monday- no class	Intersectionality, Underserved Populations, and Health	Work period-understanding your CEL project
7	Oct 17–23	Giving and Receiving Feedback	The Epidemiology of SES and Health	Work on Project Implementation Plan
8	Oct 24–Oct 30	Time Management	Health Literacy	Work on Project Implementation Plan
9	Oct 31–Nov 6	Reading Week	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
10	Nov 7–13	Project Management	Drugs of Abuse Alcohol & Cannabis	Dr. M Group Check-Ins/Project Work
11	Nov 14–20	ePortfolios	Drugs of Abuse Opioids & Methamphetamines	Dr. M Group Check-Ins/Project Work
12	Nov 21–27	Information Literacy	Mental Illness + Drugs of Abuse	Work on Environmental Scan
13	Nov 28–Dec 4	Quantitative Research Methodology	Mental Illness + Stigma	Work on Environmental Scan
14	Dec 5–8	Qualitative Research Methodology	First Term Reflection	Project Planning for Term 2

Week	Dates	EL Skills Sessions	Tutorial Topic 1	Work Period Focus
1	Jan 9–15	Know your Why and Interview Skills	Welcome back- team building	Group Check-ins
2	Jan 16-22	How to do an Environmental Scan	Oral Health and Total Health (Dr. Abbas Jessani)	Project Time
3	Jan 23-29	EDI-D in Research Teams	Food Security	Project Time
4	Jan 30–Feb 5	Science Literacy	Cancer & Underserved Populations (Dr. Alison Allan)	Project Time
5	Feb 6-12	Science Communication for Non-Expert Audiences	Housing & Homelessness	Project Time
6	Feb 13–18	The Value of Mentorship	Housing & Homelessness	Project Time
7	Feb 19-26	Reading Week N/A	Reading Week	N/A
8	Feb 27-Mar 5	Writing your Resume/CV	Test week	Test week
9	Mar 6-12	Informational Interviews	Indigenous Women & Resilience	Final Deliverable
10	Mar 13–19	Academic Social Media	Aging and Age-related diseases	Final Deliverable
11	Mar 20–26	Networking	Aging & Age-related diseases	Poster Work
12	Mar 27–Apr 2	Plan Your Life	Course wrap-up	Poster Work
13	Apr 3-9	Work/Life Balance (and beyond)	Poster Showcase	Poster Showcase
14	Apr 10	Course wrap-up		

6. Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate during sessions in small group discussions and/or using polling software such as Menti
- Students can also participate by interacting in the Teams channel with their peers and instructors

7. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment		Format	Weighting	Due Date
ePortfolio	Outline	Written	5%	December 8
	Final	Written	10%	March 31
Inquiry and Implementation Plan (group)		Written	5%	November 18
Final deliverable (group)	Written report		20%	April 7th
	Poster presentation		5%	April 4 th during class time
Test (individual)		Short answer	15%	March 2 nd 7-9 PM
Reflections/ Participation & Professionalism (individual)		Written	5% + 5%	Throughout term
Literature review (individual)		Written	15%	October 16, assigned topic
Position paper (individual)		Written	15%	February 3, choice



- All assignments are due at 11:55 PM EST unless otherwise specified.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded; incorrect submissions including corrupt files could be subject to late penalties (see below) or a 0
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- A student might not receive the same grade as their group members if it is determined that the distribution of work was not equal
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days
- Any grade appeals on assignments or tests must be received within 3 weeks of the grade being posted.

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.

90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average

	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without accommodation will be subject to a late penalty 20 %/day
- At the discretion of the instructor, missed work may be re-weighted to another assignment or a different assignment may be assigned.
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class.
- One make-up test will be offered the weight of a missed test will be transferred to []
- The literature review and position paper **must** be completed to pass the course. If the papers are missed, the student will receive an INC and must complete these elements the next time the course is offered.

INC (Incomplete Standing): If a student has been approved by the Academic Counselling Office (in consultation with the instructor/department) to complete term work at a later date, an INC will be assigned. Students with INC will have their course load in subsequent terms reduced to allow them to complete outstanding course work. Students may request permission from Academic Counselling to carry a full course load for the term the incomplete course work is scheduled.

SPC (Special examination): If a student has been approved by the Academic Counselling Office to write a Special Examination and the final exam is the only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned. If the class has a makeup exam, the student is expected to write the makeup exam. If the class doesn't have a makeup exam or the student misses the makeup exam for reasons approved by the Academic Counselling Office, the student will write the exam the next time the course is offered. Outstanding SPCs will reduce the course load for the term the exam is deferred as outlined in [Types of Examinations](#) policy.

8. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 24–48 hours
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using sarah.mclean@schulich.uwo.ca for personal matters or issues. Clarifications about assignments should be posted on Teams.
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24–48 hours
- This course will use MS Teams for discussions
- Students should post all course-related queries on the Teams so that everyone can access the questions and responses

9. Office/Hangout Hours:



- Hangout hours will be held in-person or remotely using Teams- based on the student's preference
- Hangout hours will be held Fridays, 9:30-10:30 am
- Hangout hours will be booked using the "Sign Up" tab on OWL
- Hangout hours will be individual, though group office hours through Teams may be available prior to major assignments

10. Resources



- All resources will be posted in OWL

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:

- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared (e.g., Must Knows Facebook group, Course Hero, Chegg, etc.)
- 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

Western is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. All **students**, staff, and faculty have a role in this commitment and have a responsibility to ensure and promote a safe and respectful learning and working environment. Relevant policies include Western's [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35) and [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy – Administrative Procedures](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35).

Any **student**, staff, or faculty member who experiences or witnesses' behaviour that may be harassment or discrimination **must report the behaviour** to the Western's [Human Rights Office](#). Harassment and discrimination can be human rights-based, which is also known as EDI-based, (sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, islamophobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, and ableism) or non-human rights-based (personal harassment or workplace harassment).

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 your time throughout the course.
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. 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. Complete the pre-work before class. Failing to do so will make it a lot more difficult for you to contribute and will affect your engagement with the class.
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. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

A. Absence for medical illness:

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Accommodation for Illness Policy](#).

A student seeking academic accommodation for any **work worth less than 10%** must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline. Instructors will use good judgment and ensure fair treatment for all students when considering these requests. You are not required to disclose details about your situation to your instructor; documentation is not required in this situation, and you should not send any pictures to your instructor.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement for any **work worth 10% or greater** due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Academic Counseling as soon as possible and contact your instructor immediately. It is the student's responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed. Please note that the format of a make-up test, exam, or assignment is at the discretion of the course coordinator.

A student requiring academic accommodation due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate when visiting an off-campus medical facility or request a Record's Release Form (located in the Dean's Office) for visits to Student Health Services. The form can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

B. Absence for non-medical reasons:

Student absences might also be approved for non-medical reasons such as religious holidays and compassionate situations. Please review the policy on [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). All non-medical requests must be processed by Academic Counselling. Not all absences will be approved; pay attention to the academic calendar and final exam period when booking any trips.

C. 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](#).

Discovery Credit Statement

Students are permitted to designate up to 1.0 Discovery Credit course (or equivalent) for pass/fail grading that can be counted toward the overall course credits required for their degree program. The details of this policy and the deadlines can be found [here](#).

Essay Course Guidelines

The guidelines for the minimum written assignments refer to the cumulative amount of written work in a course but excludes written work in examinations. You can read about essay course guidelines [here](#).

An essay course must normally involve total written assignments (essays or other appropriate prose composition, excluding examinations) as follows:

- Full course (1000 to 1999): at least 3000 words
- Half course (1000 to 1999): at least 1500 words
- Full course (2000 and above): at least 5000 words
- Half course (2000 and above): at least 2500 words

The structure of the essay course must be such that in order to pass the course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

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.

14. 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.

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.

15. 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](#)