

**Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences**  
Interdisciplinary Thinking and Research Literacy in Medical Sciences  
MEDSCIEN 4930F

Course Syllabus for Fall 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.

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### 1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer

### 2. Important Dates:



Classes Begin	Classes End
Thursday, September 8, 2022	Thursday, December 8, 2022

\* November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty

Reading Week	Study day(s)	Exam Period
October 31–November 6	December 9	December 10–22

### 3. Contact Information:



Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Dr. Nicole Campbell	MS Teams (not uwo email)

Instructors	Contact Information
Dr. Hossein Noyan	MS Teams (not uwo email) + cc course coordinator
Guest lecturers (see schedule below)	TBD based on their preference

Your course coordinator **prefers correspondence via MS Teams** so that she can keep track of the messages more efficiently. Feel free to tag @nicolecampbell during correspondence.

Your **course coordinator will check MS Teams daily during the week**; follow up if it has been more than 2 business days and you have not received a response.

To ensure that an equitable learning environment is created for this course, the **course coordinator will ask that most communication is shared openly**. Students can directly message the course coordinator so that she can share the question anonymously on behalf of the student. For this course to run effectively, we need to adopt an open communication model.

Graduate Teaching Assistants	Contact Information
Onyedikachi (Dika) Ojiakor (PhD candidate Neuroscience)	MS Teams (not uwo email)
Amy Pietrantonio (MSc candidate PhysPharm)	
Leila Dzinic (MSc candidate Neuroscience)	
Matthew Arbolino (MSc candidate Micro/Imm)	
Ainslie Shouldice (MSc candidate Micro/Imm)	
Elizabeth Tennyson (PhD candidate Neuroscience)	

There will be opportunities throughout the term to **communicate with your graduate teaching assistants**. Make sure that you cc your coordinator (Dr. Campbell) on MS Teams chat when corresponding with graduate teaching assistants to receive a response.

Please ensure that all **course communication is clear, concise, and respectful**. There is no need to include screenshots or copy and paste text from your assignments because we can look it up. When reaching out about assignments, put emphasis on the expectations versus the grades. Avoid language like ‘why did I lose this mark’ and instead phrase it as ‘why didn’t I meet this expectation’. In this course, grades are earned as opposed to deducted.

#### 4. Course Description and Design:

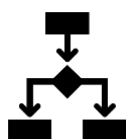
**Delivery Mode:** In-person; lectures will be recorded and shared with students if needed.

This capstone course investigates selected topics in medical science research. Students learn about human diseases/conditions that impact health systems (e.g., diabetes, cancer, neurodegenerative disease, etc.) from disciplinary lenses and engage in discussions about the academic publication process. Students develop research literacy, critical and interdisciplinary thinking, and communication skills.

Antirequisite(s): Medical Sciences 4931F/G

#### Timetabled Sessions

Component	Date(s)	Time	Location
Tutorial	Mondays	12:30–1:30 pm	SEB 2200
Lecture	Fridays	12:30–2:30 pm	SEB 2200



- Pre-work (~ 1 hour) must be completed prior to attending the Monday tutorials
- Attendance will be recorded at sessions; communicate promptly if you will be absent
- Missed work should be completed within 24 hours
- A recording could be shared with students if needed (e.g., approved accommodation)

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](#).

#### 5. Learning Outcomes:

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

- Draw from multiple basic medical science disciplines (e.g., pathology, epidemiology, biochemistry, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, immunology) to use an interdisciplinary approach to understand and evaluate a chosen disease.
- Critique primary scientific literature by summarizing the main findings and identifying the strengths, weaknesses, and limitations within a research study.
- Conduct an effective search inquiry using an appropriate medical literature database and formulate effective arguments in a relevant field.
- Develop written and oral skills to communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably, to a range of audiences.
- Identify relevant goals to showcase personal development and growth by engaging in ongoing critical reflection.



## 6. Course Content and Schedule:

### Friday Lectures

Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	September 9	Introduction	Dr. Campbell
2	September 16	Epidemiology	Dr. Mark Speechley
3	September 23	Social Determinants	Dr. Gerald McKinley
4	September 30	Pathology	Dr. Zia Khan
5	October 7	Metabolic Syndrome	Dr. Nica Borradaile
6	October 14	Biomedical Engineering	Dr. Ryan Willing
7	October 21	Imaging	Dr. Savita Dhanvantari
8	October 28	Stem Cells	Dr. David Hess
9	Oct 31–Nov 6	Reading Week	N/A
10	November 11	Animal Models	Dr. Patti Kiser
11	November 18	Gestational Diabetes	Dr. Michelle Mottola
12	November 25	Pediatric Diabetes	Dr. Cheril Clarson
13	December 2	Review	Dr. Campbell

### Monday Tutorials

Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	Sept 8–11	N/A	N/A
2	September 12	Critical Thinking Framework	Dr. Campbell
3	September 19	Experimental Design	Dr. Campbell
4	September 26	Writing Workshop	Dr. Campbell
5	October 3	Interdisciplinarity*	Drs. Campbell and Noyan
6	October 10	Thanksgiving Holiday	N/A
7	October 17	Publication Process*	Drs. Campbell and Noyan
8	October 24	Impact Factor*	Drs. Campbell and Noyan
9	Oct 31–Nov 6	Reading Week	N/A
10	November 7	Academic Integrity*	Drs. Campbell and Noyan
11	November 14	Preprints and Open Access*	Drs. Campbell and Noyan
12	November 21	Research Ethics*	Drs. Campbell and Noyan
13	November 28	Communicating Science*	Drs. Campbell and Noyan
14	December 5	Course Review and Feedback	Dr. Campbell

\*Associated with a case study; cases will be released one week before due date; see evaluations below for more details

## 7. Participation and Engagement:



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content and other materials as much as possible
- Students can participate during sessions in the chat or by raising their hand
- Students can also participate by reflecting on the discussions after watching the recording
- Students should actively interact on MS Teams with their peers and instructors

## 8. Evaluation:

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

Assessment		Format	Weighting	Due Date
Critical Appraisals	CA #1	Written (group)	10%	September 23
	CA #2	Written (individual)	30% (low: 5%, middle: 10%, high: 15%; determined end of term)	October 14
	CA #3			November 11
	CA #4			December 2
Case studies*		Written (individual)	25% (best 5 of 7 will be counted towards grade)	Due by noon the day of the tutorial
Participation**		Mixed	10%	Throughout term
Take home exam		Written	25%	Exam period

\*See the tutorial schedule to see which weeks have an associated case study

\*\*See OWL for details about what participation includes

- All assignments are due by 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below); students will have unlimited submissions
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- Students must wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator
- Grade appeals on assessments must be received within 3 weeks of the grade being returned



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:

- All individual written assignments will have a 2-day grace period; no questions asked!
- Late assessments without accommodation will be subject to a penalty of 20%/day
- For the case study assignments, the best 5 out of 7 will count; therefore, no accommodations will be provided for missed submissions
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; an alternate assessment could be assigned if needed
- One make-up test will be offered for the final take home exam
- Students must complete the written components of the course to pass the course

**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.

## 9. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 24–48 hours
- Students should contact their coordinator using MS Teams; guest lecturers may choose alternative means of communication
- Messages will be monitored daily, with the exception of weekends; students will receive a response within 24–48 hours
- Course and assignment related questions should be posted [TBD based on class input]

## 10. Office Hours:



- Office hours will be held [TBD based on class input]
- Students should contact their course coordinator if they wish to book individual office hours

## 11. Course Resources:



- All resources will be posted on OWL
- There is not textbook assigned for this course
- There are no additional costs for materials related to this course

## 12. 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
- Shared recordings are not to be distributed



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).

### 13. How to Be Successful in this Course:

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. 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.

### 14. 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 Counselling 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](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 Software Statement

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](https://www.turnitin.com).

## 15% Rule

According to the [Evaluation of Academic Performance](#) policy, at least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. Generally, students can expect some form of feedback on their performance in a course before the drop date. In rare instances, at the Dean's discretion, an exemption can be issued, which also must be noted in the course syllabus. Deans should review exemptions on a course-by-course basis each time an exempted course is offered.

## 15. 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.

## 16. Support Services:

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

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](#)