

Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences Module
Selected Topics in Medical Sciences 4931G

Course outline for Winter 2023



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. Important Dates:



Classes Resume	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 9	February 18–26	April 13	April 11-12	April 17-28

* March 07, 2023: Last day to drop a second-term half course or a second-term full course without penalty

3. Contact Information



Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Dr. Hossein Noyan	hnoyan@uwo.ca

Instructor(s)	Contact Information
Dr. Hossein Noyan	hnoyan@uwo.ca
Dr. Faraj Haddad (course co-coordinator)	fhaddad2@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistants	Contact Information
Chloe Lauren Cheung	ccheu252@uwo.ca
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4. Course Description and Design

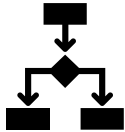
An introduction to the basic medical sciences through a discussion and investigation of selected topics in medical sciences. Topics will focus on human diseases or conditions which are common or result in most illness and death or burden to the health system (e.g. diabetes, obesity, cancer, neurodegenerative disease).

Timetabled Sessions

Component	Date(s) & Location	Time
Live synchronous lecture	Tuesdays, B&GS-0153	1:30-3:30 PM
Asynchronous (online) sessions	TBA-OWL	60 min

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.



- Asynchronous pre-work must be completed prior to sessions
- Attendance at sessions is required
- Missed work should be completed within 24 hours
- A recording will be provided of the sessions
- 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](#).

5. Learning Outcomes

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



- Draw from multiple basic medical sciences disciplines (e.g. pathology, epidemiology, biochemistry, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, immunology) to use an interdisciplinary approach to understand and evaluate a chosen disease/health condition
- Conduct an effective search inquiry using an appropriate medical science literature database and summarize pertinent information
- Summarize primary literature by discussing the methods and main findings within a research study
- Evaluate scientific literature and synthesize concepts in a specific discipline of the chosen disease
- Develop written and oral skills to communicate information, arguments, and analyses, accurately and reliably, to a range of audiences.

6. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	Jan 9-13	Synchronous: Introduction to the course, Welcome & Expectations, Introduction to biological rhythms Asynchronous: Writing guidelines and support	Noyan & Haddad
2	Jan 16-20	Synchronous: Daily and circadian rhythms Asynchronous: Literature searching	Noyan & Haddad
3	Jan 23-27	Synchronous: Basic and clinical research in circadian rhythms Asynchronous: Summarizing research findings	Noyan & Haddad
4	Jan 30-Feb 3	Synchronous: Anatomy, physiology, and cell and molecular biology of the circadian rhythms in rodents and humans Asynchronous: Understanding physiological and pathological research models	Noyan & Haddad
5	Feb 6-10	Synchronous: Mechanisms in circadian biology Asynchronous: Visual representation of research findings in primary and secondary scientific literature	Noyan & Haddad
6	Feb 13-17	Synchronous: Circadian rhythmicity and homeostasis Asynchronous: Communicating science to nonexpert	Noyan & Haddad
7	Feb 20-24	Reading Week	N/A
8	Feb 27–Mar 3	Synchronous: Jet lag and shift work Asynchronous: Organizing ideas in scientific writing	Noyan & Haddad
9	Mar 6-10	Synchronous: Circadian typology Asynchronous: Scientific degrees of certainty	Noyan & Haddad
10	Mar 13-17	Synchronous: Circadian disruptions (sleep disorders and mental health) Asynchronous: Translatability of preclinical research	Noyan & Haddad
11	Mar 20-24	Synchronous: Circadian disruption in aging brain and neurodegenerative diseases Asynchronous: Interpreting clinical trials	Noyan & Haddad
12	Mar 27- 31	Synchronous: Chronopharmacology and clinical trials Asynchronous: Bench & bedside	Noyan & Haddad
13	Apr 3-7	Synchronous: Course conclusion (Wrap-Up and Review) Asynchronous: Bench & Bedside – relating preclinical research to clinical findings	Noyan & Haddad

7. Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate during synchronous sessions or post on MS Teams General Channel after watching the recording
- Students can also participate by interacting in the chat 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
Biweekly 1-pagers (5 in total)	Individual assignment Essay-style * 500 words each	2.5% each Lowest dropped Total weight = 10%	Jan 20 th , Feb 3 rd , Feb 17 th , Mar 10 th , Mar 24 th
Biweekly quizzes (5 in total)	Multiple choice Online (OWL)	2.5% each Lowest dropped Total weight = 10%	Jan 27 th , Feb 10 th , Mar 3 rd , Mar 17 th , Mar 31 st
Annotated bibliography		10%	Week 5
Discussion video/TED chat	Individual assignment but performed in collaboration with peers Online discussions: Watching a video about circadian system, e.g., TED Chat or YouTube Part 1: answer to a question created by the instructor in the discussion section (5%) Part 2: Comment on one of your peer's comments/answers for part 1 (5%)	10%	Week 8
Create infographics (group activity); Make an infographic (find a common theme between your literature reviews)	video Recording + Infographic	20%	Week 10
The broken clock assignment: Write how our modern lifestyle negatively affects our circadian rhythms.	Individual assignment Literature review paper * 2,500 words	20%	Week 12
Final exam	Mixed format, multiple choice and written	20%	TBA



*Assignments are associated with peer feedback

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- 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 may 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

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:

1. Late assessments without self-reported absences or accommodation will be subject to a late penalty of 25% per day
2. Late assessments with self-reported absences or accommodation should be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the self-report or accommodation (e.g. due Fri 11:55 pm; self-report covers Fri/Sat; new deadline is Sun by 11:55 pm OR 24 hours after the end of the accommodation period)
3. An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; an alternate assessment will be assigned.
4. Final exam, major essay, and peer communication project must be passed to pass the course.

9. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using [e.g. Teams, etc.]
- 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 Microsoft Teams where everyone can access the questions and responses

10. Office Hours:



- Office hours will be held remotely using Microsoft Teams
- Office hours will be announced.
- Office hours will be booked on OWL
- Office hours will be individual- group office hours may be posted and recorded prior to major assignment due dates

11. Resources



- All resources will be posted in OWL

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
- 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

13. 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.

14. 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](#).

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.

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](#)