

The University of Western Ontario

School of Health Studies Faculty of Health Sciences

HS1002A: Introduction to the Social Determinants of Health
Dr. Jessica Polzer

September – December 2011
Tuesdays: 10:30am 12:30pm
Thursdays: 11:30 12:30
HSB 40

Instructor & TA Information

Instructor	Office Location	Office Hours
Dr. Jessica Polzer	HS 202	Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00—2:30
Teaching Assistants	Assigned Students	
Mohsin Khan	last names:	Abdallah Despinic
Janet Kim	last names:	Diaz Urdaneta Kaupp
Naila Sohail	last names:	Keast Mwaura
Sevil Devaljan	last names:	Nadarajah Singh
Matt Lucas	last names:	Sivanesarajah Zuo

Course Objectives: The objectives of this course are to:

Course Materials: There is no required text for the course. A package of readings is available at Inprint which is located in the lower level of the UCC building. Readings not included in the course

physician or walk in clinic. An

Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>

Lecture Schedule

Week #	Date	Topic
	Sept 8	Introduction Course perspective

Lecture Schedule & Required Readings:

All readings are in Coursepack unless noted with an asterisk(*). Readings with an asterisk(*) will be posted online on WebCT. Students are expected to print these readings.

Introduction

Class 1 Thurs Sept 8 Course Perspective
Required Readings:
Picard, A. (2004, 30 September). Bring on the duelling top 10s: Two lists not to die for. *The Globe and Mail*, A21.

Week 1: Conceptualizations of "health": Canadian Contributions

Class 2 Tues Sept 13 What is "health"?
Required Readings:
Segall, A. & Fries, C. (2011). Chapter 3: Measuring the dimensions of health and Basic ideas of the biomedical model. In *Pursuing Health and Wellness* Don Mills: Oxford University Press pp. 57-89 and 280-286 of 408. ISBN 9780195430677

Durie, M. (2004). Understanding health and illness: Research at the interface between science and indigenous knowledge. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 33(5), 1138-1143.

Class 3 Thurs Sept 15 Construction of health in Canadian policy frameworks
Required Readings:
Rootman, J. & Raeburn, J. (2007). A new appraisal of the concept of health. In O'Neill, M., Pederson, A., Dupere, S., & Rootman, J. (Eds.) *Health Promotion in Canada: Critical Perspectives* (2nd Edition). Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press Inc. pp. 19-31 of 406. ISBN 9781551303253

*The Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion.

*Canadian Government Population Health website. Read sections under "Approach" and "Determinants".

Week 4: Political and Economic Barriers to Health Equity

Class 8 Tues Oct 4

The political economy of health

Required readings:

Read 029 2.03 2168 24 0 TD .004 reading 8 Tf 3.1:D .0034 Tc <00066.2 1 Tf .224 0 TD

Week 6: Midterm and Introduction to "Race" as a Determinant of Health

Class 12 Tues Oct 18 **Midterm**
Location to be announced on WebCT and in class

Class 13 Thurs Oct 20 **The 'social construction of "race"'**
Film: Race: The Power of an Illusion, California Newsreel

Week 7: Racism as a Determinant of Health

Class 14 Tues Oct 25 **Exploring the links between racism and health**
Required readings:
Johnson, A. G. (2008). *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice, and Promise*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, pp. 7-34 of 203. ISBN 1592138764

*McIntosh, P. (1989). *White privilege: Unpacking the invisible knapsack*
Cooper, R. , Rotimi, C., & Ward, R. (1999). The puzzle of hypertension in African Americans, *Scientific American*, February, 56-63.

*Smedley, B., Jeffries, M., Adelman, L., & Cheng, J. (2008). *Race, racial inequality and health inequities: Separating myth from fact.*

*Prime Minister Stephen

Week 10: Global Health Inequalities

Class 20 Tues Nov 15 Globalization, trade and health

Required readings:

Labonte, R., Mohindra, K. & Schrecker, J. (2011). The growing impact of globalization for health and public health practice, *Annual Review of Public Health*, 32, 263-283.

Marmot, M. (2005). Social determinants of health inequalities. *The Lancet*, 365, 1099-1104.

Class 21 Thurs Nov 17 Social suffering and structural violence

Required reading:

Farmer, P. (1997). On suffering and structural violence: A view from below. In A. Kleinman, V. Das & M. Lock (Eds.), *Social Suffering* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press pp. 261-284 of 425, ISBN 520209958

Week 11: Globalization and Structural Violence

Class 22 Tues Nov 22 Case study: The Jamaica experience of "structural adjustment"

Film: Life and Debt

Class 23 Thurs Nov 24 Case study: Undocumented migrant day labourers

Class 25 Thurs Dec 1

Human rights as a framework for health

Required readings:

Haigh, F. (2002). Human rights approach to health. *Croatian Medical Journal*, 43(2), 166-9.

Wronka, J. (2008). Human rights and social justice: Social action and service for the helping and health professions. Thousand Oaks: Sage. pp. 16-32 of 368. ISBN 1412938732

Week 13: Conclusion

Class 26 Tues Dec 6

Course conclusion and evaluations

ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE (20%)