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The University of Western Ontario; Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Health Studies
Health Sciences 4711A 2013 – Gerontology in Practice
Community Service Learning Course

“Service-learning is a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities
that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities for
reflection designed to achieve desired learning outcomes.”
Barbara Jacoby, Service-learning in Higher Education, 1996.

Course Instructor
Aleksandra Zecevic, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Monday 4:30-5:30 pm, HSB Room 220

Teaching Assistant
Dylan Brannan, dbrenna4@uwo.ca
To schedule office hours please email your TA directly. In all communication with professor or TAs please
indicate “HS4711” in subject line.

Course Description
Gerontology in Practice is a community service learning course in which small teams of Health Sciences
students will work alongside community partners on projects targeting health and aging. By researching authentic
real-life problems that have been identified by the community partners, students will be required to find the
theoretical factors behind the issue at hand, discern and critically evaluate available solutions and come up with
a proposal to advocate for change. Through reflection, class discussion, group presentation, video and
preparation of an implementation document, students will learn through civic engagement and provide
community partners with innovative options to improve lives of the elderly in the community.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course students will be able to:
1. Define and describe the theoretical and practical nature of issues that affect older adults on a communal
level (as opposed to population or individual level).
2. Engage in community service learning with community partners to learn how complex determinants of
the aging process influence needs of the elderly, healthcare providers and healthcare system.
3.

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Class Schedule and Content

Week

Lecture
Community
Service-Learning
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Sep 9

COURSE INTRODUCTION & LEARNING HOW TO REFLECT
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 Makila, P., Hirvensalo, M., & Parkatti, T. (2010). Changes in physical
activity involvement and attitude to physical activity in a 16-

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General Study Hints

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CSL Hours Tracking Module
The CSL Hours Tracking application is to serve as a record of the contributions you, as a Western student, have
made to the London community and beyond through Community Service Learning. Since you are engaged in
Community Service Learning a

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such as politicians, jour

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appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student’s Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the
School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222.
Scholastic 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 website:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf .
Additionally,
1. 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).
2. 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.
Support Services
There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:
1. Student Development Centre -- http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/
2. Student Health -- http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html
3. Registrar’s Office -- http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/
4. Ombuds Office -- http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/

If you have difficulties with any aspect of the course, please contact Dr. Zecevic immediately. Do not hesitate to
provide constructive feedback, comments and suggestions to the professor and Teaching Assistant as we go
along.
With hopes that this will be valuable, inspirational and joyful course that will challenge and uplift you, I wish you
an empowering semester of learning and community serving.

Dr. Aleksandra Zecevic