

The University of Western Ontario  
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences HS4044a

International Health Systems Comparison

Fall/Winter 2017

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Office Room Number: TBD

Office Hours: Mondays, 1 – 2 pm

### **Course Information**

Around the world governments are trying to assess and improve the quality of health services. The course begins by introducing participants to the organization and operation of the Canadian health system by considering the legal and policy context as the foundation for understanding health system funding, delivery and performance. Students will then consider comparator countries using a similar approach that looks at the social, legal and economic structures that impact health systems. The course will cover a different country each week including Canada, the United States and other countries from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. This course will also consider international and Canadian performance measurement frameworks for comparing and assessing health services and health outcomes including those from the World Health Organization (WHO), Institute of Medicine (IOM), and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In addition,

## **Course Materials**

There are no required textbooks for this course. All course materials will be posted on the OWL website.



raised during (or immediately after) lectures, (b) asked during office hours, or (c) posted to the online discussion forum.

### **Lecture Attendance**

You are expected to attend every class, as some material that is covered during lecture will not be in the course notes.

### **Eating and Drinking in Class**

Out of consideration for your fellow students, please refrain from eating during class (lidded beverages are acceptable).

### **Grade Adjustments**

Final grades in this course will be taken to the closest integer (i.e., I will “round off” decimals). Exam grades will be calculated out of 100% to one decimal place. I will not, under any circumstances, “bump up” your grade (i.e., to facilitate professional school applications etc.). This includes grades that end in a “9”. Along similar lines, I will not reweight examinations for reasons other than those outlined in section 5.3. In other words – I will not alter exam weights for evaluations that you have already written.

### **Use of Cellphones During Class**

Please ensure that any cellphones, pagers, or other communication devices on your person are turned off, or have their ringers silenced (or turned to vibrate) during lectures and labs.

### **Use of Laptops During Class**

If you plan to bring your laptop to class, please restrict your computer use to course-related activities, and refrain from using instant messaging clients, video games, or other software packages that might be distracting to students sitting near you.

### **Recording Lectures**

You do not have my permission to make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor do you have my permission to edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

## **ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Visit the website [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/english.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf)

### **Policy Regarding Illness**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal, and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate academic counselors (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. For this course, you are to contact the academic counselors in the main office of the School of Health Studies. Documents submitted in this fashion will be retained in your file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy [<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/general/privacy.pdf>].

Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office (Academic Counsellor) in consultation your instructor. Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that you could not reasonably be expected to complete your academic responsibilities. Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that you were “seen for a medical reason” or “were ill.” Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. You must follow up with your professors and the Academic Counseling office in a timely manner.

### **Documentation from Family Physicians and Walk-In Clinics**

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required whenever you seek academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. Hard copies are available from Academic Counseling.

## **Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments**

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. You may take this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for you to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, you must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that your ability to meet your academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

## **Policy on Cheating & Academic Misconduct**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and you are directed to read information prepared by the Office of the Ombudsperson, here: <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/student/cheating.html>.

Additionally, 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/>
2. Student Health – <http://www.uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

### Class and Lecture Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 11	Introduction & Key Concepts
September 18	The Canadian Health System(s)
September 25	Health Care in the United States
October 2	The National Health Service (NHS)
<b>October 9</b>	<b>(Fall Reading Week) - No class</b>
October 16	Measuring Health System Performance
<b>October 23</b>	<b>Mid Term Exam</b>
October 30	Brazilian Health System
November 6	Right to Health - Health Care in India
November 13	Public and Private Healthcare in South Africa
November 20	Work on Group Presentations - No Class
<b>November 27</b>	<b>In Class Group Presentations</b>
<b>December 4</b>	<b>In Class Group Presentations</b>
<b>December Exam Period</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>