

HS1002B: Social Determinants of Health

Winter | 2025

Prerequisite(s):

None, but priority is given to students enrolled in the School of Health Studies.

Course Information

Instructor Name: Elysée Nouvet (she/her)

Email: enouvet@uwo.ca

Office Hours Day / Time: TBA

Location: TBA

Lectures Day / Time: TBA

Tutorials Day / Time: TBA

Course Description

This course introduces key social determinants of health and orients students to viewing health in relation to social factors and social justice. Students will be introduced to basic terms, concepts, and measurements related to health, public health, population health, and health inequalities.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the difference between personal and social determinants of health;**
- Identify and critically analyze social determinants of health and their impacts on healthcare and health outcomes in Canadian and global contexts**
- Explain the relationship between social determinants of health and strategies to address suffering, disease, and health inequities**
- Practice reflexivity: identify and understand the interactions between one's positionality and one's perception/understanding of the world
- Apply core strategies of effective written communication in an individual assignment

Course Format and Timetable

This course material will be delivered in 2 parts:

1. Non-synchronous lectures (which students can consume on their own time before Thursday's Power Hour). Lecture material will be made available each Sunday prior to the week it is assigned.
2. Synchronous Tutorials (hereafter called the Power Hour) 50 min in duration, Power Hour will be held at various times throughout the week. Note that you must attend the Power Hour/tutorial in which you are registered, if you wish to be marked present.

Required Course Material:

1. Online readings (OWL). Course reading materials will be posted on OWL. Please check this site often to keep informed of important course information or announcements.
2. Online non-written resources : films, YouTube videos, and recommended podcasts (TBD) will be available via links on OWL

Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined by the following:

Assignment	Details	Value
Bi-weekly Quizzes	5 Quizzes (6% each, except first one worth 5%)	29%

Diversity and Inclusion statement

I have selected the readings for this course with the aim of providing you with multiple perspectives: in terms of authors' training, social positionality, and approaches to topics. While as scholars, we do endeavor to provide robust evidence-informed analyses, these are always connected to dominant frameworks for the context in which we conduct our analyses, as well as being shaped by our particular trajectories through and experiences in the world. There can be biases in the materials you encounter in a course, even if written in a scientific voice. Part of your training as a critical health studies scholar is to consider how particular analyses may be informed by the training, goals, audience, and socio-historical context of the author(s). That said, if you do find any of the course materials biased or offensive, please help alert me to this. You can do so during office hours or electronically, or anonymously through the "Anonymous feedback" Forum discussion topic on OWL.

My goal is to create a classroom where everyone feels respected and valued. If anything happens or is said in your Power Hour that makes you feel disrespected or devalued, please let your TA or the professor know. You can also share feedback anonymously also (through "Anonymous feedback" on the course website).

Please also let your TA know:

If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear to me in OWL Brightspace

If you have any other questions or concerns, do reach out to your TA, the prof if the TA cannot help, or your Academic Counsellor. We are here to support your learning!

Your mental health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

Re-submission of Previously Graded Material

Without the explicit written permission of the instructor, you may not submit any academic work for which credit has been obtained previously, or for which credit is being sought, in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

Use of Statistical Pattern Recognition on Multiple Choice Exams

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.

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 their official university address is attended to in a timely manner. Students are further expected to attend to announcements presented through Brightspace, and to read emails generated in this way.

Use of Electronic Devices

During Exams: Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glass, smart watches, or iPods) during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations. These devices MUST either be left at home or with your belongings at the front of the room. They MUST NOT be at your test/exam desk or in your pocket. Any student found with a prohibited device will receive an automatic grade of zero on the test or exam.

During Lectures and Tutorials: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class.

Personal Response Systems: (clickers) may be used in some classes. For those classes in which we use this technology, it is your responsibility to ensure that the device is activated and functional. You must speak with the course instructor immediately, if you have any concerns about whether or not your clicker is malfunctioning. You must use only your own clicker. For all components of this course in which clicker records are used to compute a portion of the grade:

The use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence;

The possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offense.

Academic Considerations and Absences from Lectures and Assessments
Religious Accommodation

Appealing a Grade Within this Course

You have the right to appeal any grade within this course. The grounds for a grade appeal may be one or more of: medical or compassionate circumstances, extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, bias, inaccuracy, or unfairness. All grounds advanced in a request for relief must be supported by a clear and detailed explanation of the reasons for the request together with all 10 supporting documentation.

Appeals generally proceed in this order:

1. Course instructor (informal consultation)
2. Department Chair (submission of written request)
3. The Dean of the Faculty (submission of written request)

In the case of perceived procedural unfairness, steps 2 and 3 are carried out within the Department and Faculty offering the course. In the case of extenuating medical or compassionate circumstances that impact on a grade, steps 2 and 3 are carried out within a student's Home Department and Faculty.

A request for relief against a mark or grade must be initiated with the instructor as soon as possible after the mark is issued. In the event that the instructor is not available to the student, or fails to act, or if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily with the instructor, a written request for relief must be submitted to the Chair of the Department within three weeks of the date that the mark was issued. In the case of a final grade in a course, the written request for relief must be submitted to the Chair of the department by January 31st (for first-term half courses) or June 30th (for second-term half courses or full-year courses)

Health and Wellness

Information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>

Students who are