

The University of Western Ontario  
School of Health Studies  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
HS 1002B (Summer 2024): Social Determinants of Health

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**Time:** This course is asynchronous, there are no in-person lectures or labs.

**Location:** online via OWL. (A strong internet connection is recommended.)

**Instructor:** Dr. Josh Tobias – dn--o[

## Course Structure

This course is comprised of a series of modules, each exploring a key social determinant of health as well as associated concepts. Each module includes one lecture – delivered asynchronously – as well as learning materials (see below). There will be 2 modules released each week, according to our course calendar. You are responsible for consuming materials on your own time, noting any associated deadlines.

## Course Materials (Required Learning):

Online learning materials – including readings as well as non-written resources – will be posted on OWL within each of the relevant modules. Noting that there may be restrictions on the number of individuals who can access material at any given time, please schedule your learning time accordingly. Please check our OWL site often to keep informed of important course information or announcements.

## Contacting the Professor and Teaching Assistant

Both the Professor and Teaching Assistant are here to support your learning. We kindly ask that your first point of contact be your TA (Farnaz). Please refrain from emailing the professor unless your question or concern is one that the TA has been unable to resolve to your satisfaction. To ensure a prompt response, you must include 'HS1002 in the subject line of your email when contacting us. We will try our best to respond to you within 48hrs during the week, and within 72hrs if your email was sent after 3 pm on a Friday or during a holiday.

## Evaluation

Your grade in our class will be calculated according to the following:

Assignment	Short Summary	Value
Weekly Quiz	A 3-question quiz following modules 1-10. 10x3%	30%
Minor Assignments	A total of 7 available throughout the course. Complete 4, worth 5%each	20%
Exam Questions	Five questions (1%each)	5%
Forum Participation	Contribution – at a minimum 1 quality original post and 1 quality response to a fellow student – per module.	15%
Final Exam	Cumulative of all course content	30%

***Full details about each assignment, due dates, and marking criteria can be found on our OWL site.***

## Quizzes/Exams

Weekly quizzes and the final exam will test students on the course material, inclusive of lecture videos, media, and required readings. Computer-marked multiple-choice quizzes and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for

potential academic dishonesty. 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 Web site: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca)

### *Minor Assignments*

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



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 an offence under the Act. For more information, see the course syllabus.

## ***Academic Considerations and Absences from Lectures and Assessments***

### ***Religious Accommodation***

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request (in writing) any necessary academic considerations at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the academic counsellors in their Home Department. Additional information is provided in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

### ***Academic Accommodation***

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. Students with ongoing accommodation needs within this course are also encouraged to contact [Accessible Education](#), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found [here](#).

### ***Academic Consideration***

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances that are medical or compassionate in nature. These extenuating circumstances may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. In all cases, students are advised to consult with the academic counsellors in their home units, at their earliest opportunity. Academic counsellors may refer students to [Accessible Education](#) for ongoing academic accommodations.

Most forms of academic consideration require documentation, and this documentation is to be submitted to academic counsellors within five (5) business days of their return to academic responsibilities. Any such documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's [Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy](#). Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic considerations shall be determined by academic counseling, in consultation with the student's instructor(s).

Academic considerations 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 considerations shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to

provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”).

Whenever possible, students who require academic considerations should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Under no circumstances are students expected to submit rationales for (or documentation of) any absences, to course instructors. Students are, however, required to follow-up with course instructors, in a timely fashion, to identify the ways in which the academic consideration will be implemented.

### ***Examination Conflicts***

A student completing tests or examinations with flexible submission times (e.g., where one or more evaluation is a take-home assessment) cannot request alternative arrangements unless a conflict cannot be avoided by rescheduling writing the exam to a different time within the window specified by the instructor. This applies to direct conflicts as well as “heavy load” conflicts (e.g., three exams within a 23-hour period). The student should discuss any concerns about a potential conflict and/or request academic considerations with their academic counselling unit prior to the deadline to drop a course without academic penalty.

In the case of online tests and examinations, use of a “Conflict Room,” wherein student can write two proctored exams concurrently, will be interpreted as arrangements for continuous proctoring.

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.



Recalibrating ourselves emotionally begins with slowing down, reminding ourselves that we are ok, and taking a few deep, slow breaths. This remarkably effective strategy brings the body from stress mode into a more relaxed state. If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@ Western](mailto:MentalHealth@Western) Mental Health Support - Health & Wellness - Western University ([uwo.ca](http://uwo.ca)) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or