

THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
PUBH 2000 Population Health
Room AH116, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.
September 6 – December 6, 2012
Course Syllabus – Fall, 2012

Instructor: Steve Pedersen, MPH
Office: Markin Hall, Room 3044
Office Hours: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to key concepts, policy, strategies and challenges of population health approaches in Canada. It will explore a broad range of topics that include: models of population health, review of population health policy in Canada, health inequalities over the life course, overview of population health theories and strategies, population health planning and evaluation, and the evidence base for population health interventions. Students will be challenged to critically examine these issues and the complexities inherent in population health based on class discussions and project work.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon course completion, students will be able to:

- Define concepts of population health and distinguish them from the health of individuals
- Understand the historical development of population health
- Describe the mechanisms through which population health determinants operate
- Analyze the role of public health in production of population health outcomes
- Apply concepts of population health across the life-course

COURSE FORMAT

Classes consist of 75-minute sessions including lectures, audio-visuals, group discussions, guest lectures, case scenarios and participatory exercises. Readings and other class materials will be posted on Moodle in advance of the class. Students are expected to check regularly for class updates on Moodle.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook:

Marmot, M. and Wilkinson R. (ed.) (2006) Social Determinants of Health (2nd ed.). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Course Website:

Additional class readings, slides, and resources will be posted on Moodle.

CLASS PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend all classes and to come to class prepared. Readings are to be completed before class and students should be ready to participate actively in class discussion and activities. You are responsible for materials covered in class. Exam material may include anything covered in class (i.e. readings, class discussion, class lecture, group work, videos, and guest speakers.) If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to see me or another student for information on that class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class Participation	Ongoing	15%
Mid-term Exam	October 16	30%
Research Paper	November 13	35%
Final Exam	Final Exam – In Class Final December 6	20%

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Mid-term Exam (30%)

The exam will include a combination of multiple-choice, short- and long-answer questions covering material presented in class, course readings, guest lectures, and resource material provided.

Final Exam (20%)

The final exam will include a combination of multiple-choice, short- and long-answer questions covering material presented in class, course readings, guest lectures and resource material provided. The final exam will be a non-cumulative exam focused on the second half of the course (all content after the mid-term exam).

Participation Mark (15%)

Participation marks will be given based on a combination of (i) attendance at classes and (ii) iClicker grades for ‘spot quizzes’ reflecting preparation for classes

Research Paper (35%)

The research paper is a 6- to 10-page paper (typed, single-spaced, 12 point font) that:

1. describes the health status of a population
2. explains why this health status exists in this population, clearly identifying population determinants as opposed to individual determinants
3. offers evidence-based strategies to improve the health status of this population

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

The grading system for this course is consistent with that established in the Faculty of Health Sciences, effective May, 2002.

Letter	GPA	Percent	Letter	GPA	Percent
A+	4.0	95 - 100%	C+	2.3	71 - 74.9%
A	4.0	91 - 94.9%	C	2.0	67 - 70.9%
A-	3.7	87 - 90.9%	C-	1.7	63 - 66.9%
B+	3.3	83 - 86.9%	D+	1.3	59 - 62.9%
B	3.0	79 - 82.9%	D	1.0	55 - 58.9%
B-	2.7	75 - 78.9%	F	0	0 - 54.9%

It is expected that university students are familiar with correct spelling and grammar rules. If you feel that you need help in these areas, you are strongly advised to obtain and use dictionaries, and/or to take advantage of university resources set up to assist students with writing.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

General

- All students should familiarize themselves with the Academic Regulations and Policies of the University of Lethbridge (see U of L Academic Calendar at <http://www.uleth.ca/ross/calendar/part04.pdf>).
- All assignments must be submitted by the due date. Late assignments will be deducted 5% of the total mark per day late unless an extension has been granted by the instructor (as per Faculty of Health Sciences policy).
- **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Calendar, specifically pg. 80. Please note that the authenticity of any submitted coursework may be verified through plagiarism detection software.
- **Citing your Work:** It is crucial that you know how to use citations correctly. Utilize the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) format for all citations. Information and guidelines on how to use these styles can be found at: <http://www.uleth.ca/lib/guides/research/display.asp?PageID=1>,

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

The University of Lethbridge subscribes to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service. Please be advised that student work submitted for credit in this course may be submitted to this system to verify its originality. Students are required to submit electronic versions of their work for this course.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. If you have been diagnosed with a disability, there is no need to face the challenge of University without support. Please contact the Counselling Services/Students with Disabilities Resource Centre at 403-329-2766 <http://www.uleth.ca/ross/counselling/index.html> to set up an appointment. After registering with the Disabilities Resource Centre, your instructor will be notified by a formal letter of any accommodations you require. In addition, students are responsible for requesting accommodations from the instructor at least ***two weeks*** in advance of the evaluation date. The instructor and student are jointly responsible for arranging the resources needed for the evaluation process.

CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	Notes/Readings
Sep 6	Course Introduction What is Population Health?	Moodle Readings
Sep 11	Thinking Populations vs Thinking Individuals – theories, frameworks, models, and approaches – part I	Moodle Readings Chapter 11, Textbook
Sep 13	Thinking Populations vs Thinking Individuals – theories, frameworks, models, and approaches – part II	Moodle Readings Chapter 11, Textbook
Sep 18	Population Health in Canada	Moodle Readings
Sep 20	Population Health Data and Statistics	
Sep 25	Biological Plausibility for Social Determinants	Chapter 2, Textbook
Sep 27	Understanding the Life Course Approach	Chapter 4, Textbook
Oct 2	Early Life	Chapter 3, Textbook
Oct 4	Aging	Chapter 13, Textbook
Oct 9	Work and Health	Chapter 6, Textbook
Oct 11	Labour Markets and Health	Chapter 5, Textbook
Oct 16	Midterm Exam	
Oct 18	Aboriginal Health	Moodle Readings
Oct 23	Aboriginal Health	Moodle Readings
Oct 25	Food and Health	Chapter 9, Textbook
Oct 30	Food and Health	Moodle Readings
Nov 1	Poverty and Health	Chapter 10, Textbook
Nov 6	Poverty and Health	Moodle Readings
Nov 8	Place and Health	Chapter 14, Textbook
Nov 13	Public Health Communications Research Paper Due	Moodle Readings
Nov 15	Population Health Policy in Canada	Moodle Readings
Nov 20	Population Health Policy: International Perspectives	Moodle Readings
Nov 22	Advocating for Policy Change	Moodle Readings
Nov 27	Intersectoral Action for Health	Moodle Readings
Nov 29	Population Health Evaluation	Moodle Readings
Dec 4	Population Health Economics	Moodle Readings
Dec 6	Final Exam	