



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2180B - 001**  
**Development & Health Inequalities**  
**Winter 2023**  
**Thursdays, 2:30-4:30, SSC-2028**  
**In-person**

**Instructor: Dr. Kayla Baumgartner**  
**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30, via Zoom  
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**Course Description:** This course covers the health of populations in comparative and historical context. It focuses on the factors behind the recent improvements in health and the causes of large health inequalities. Major health policy issues in both developing and developed countries are investigated, such as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, smoking, and violence.

***Anti-requisite:*** Sociology 2279A/B

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Characterize measures of population health to capture infant and child health, adult health, disability, and mortality
- Calculate basic measures of a life table and interpret them
- Recognize and critique different types of studies used to understand the factors contributing to changes in health over time and differences in health across subpopulations
- Communicate the results of figures, graphs, and tables of results that we discuss in class
- Identify the major health policy issues in countries with high and low resources.

**Course Material:**

- An Introduction to Global Health (3<sup>rd</sup> ed) by Michael Seear & Obidimma Ezezika – Available online through [Canadian Scholars Press](http://www.caspress.com). A copy is on order for a 2-hour loan at the Weldon Library, but unfortunately I don't know when it will arrive. Other options may be available. Talk to your professor in-person.

## **Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

## **Method of Evaluation:**

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

“DIY” Research Paper (April 8) (35%)

Midterm Exam (March 2) (30%)

Final Exam (35%)

*“DIY” Research Paper (April 8)*

To foster your intellectual curiosity, you will create *and* answer 12 critical thinking questions. These questions should be challenging, and require a bit of research to answer; you be evaluated both on the questions themselves as well as your answers to them. I am especially interested in how you can make sociological sense of global health inequalities, so be sure that you use a variety of different concepts, theories, and terms in your analysis. Be sure to draw on both what we have read and discussed in class as well as other academic readings.

*Midterm & Final Exam (March 2 and during final exam period)*

Students will have one midterm and a final exam. The midterm exam will happen during class time. The final exam will NOT be cumulative, but will cover all material, including the slides, videos, in-class activities, guest presenters, etc. since the previous exam. The format of these exams may include multiple choice, short answer questions, definitions, and true/false questions.

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.

## **Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

## **Student Absences:**

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

***Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:***

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. From here, students will be provided an extension based on the Counselling Office's recommendations.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

### **Absences from Final Examinations:**

Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

**Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

### **Course Schedule and Readings:**

#### Week 1 (January 12) – Course Introduction

*Reading – None*

#### Week 2 (January 19) – What does it mean to 'develop?' Part I

*Reading – Hout, W. (2016). Classical Approaches to Development: Modernisation and Dependency, in The Palgrave Handbook of International Development, eds. J. Grugel & D. Hammett, p. 21–39. London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan (available through UWO library)*

#### Week 3 (January 26) – What does it mean to 'develop?' Part II

*Reading – Chapter 2: A History of International Aid*

#### Week 4 (February 2) – What does the general landscape of global health look like?

*Reading – Chapter 1: An Overview of Global Health*

#### Week 5 (February 9) – What does it mean to live a healthy life?

*Reading – Chapter 3: The Basic Requirements for a Healthy Life*

Week 6 (February 16) – How does debt contribute to health inequalities?

*Reading* – Chapter 5: Poverty and Developing World Debt

Week 7 (March 2) – **\*\*Mid-term Exam\*\*** (in-class)

Week 8 (March 9) – How, exactly, are people getting sick?

*Reading* – Chapter 10: The Diseases of Adults and Children in Developing Countries

Week 9 (March 16) – How are Indigenous populations at a unique disadvantage?

*Reading* – Chapter 17: The Health and Rights of Indigenous Populations

Week 10 (March 23) – How do global disasters contribute to health inequalities?

*Reading* – Chapter 16: Natural and Humanitarian Disasters and Displaced Populations

Week 11 (March 30) – What role do governments play in health outcomes?

*Reading* – Chapter 7: Governance and Human Rights in Developing Countries

Week 12 (April 6) – What can we do to improve global health inequalities?

*Reading* – Chapter 12: Primary Health Care Strategies: The Essential Foundation

### Important Policies

**Academic Consideration for Missed Work:** Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation in order to receive accommodation for missed work worth 10% or more of the final grade in the course. All required documentation for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). The student medical certificate is available at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

**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 accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the

implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

**Accessibility Options:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

**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 web site: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**A Note on Plagiarism:** Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

**Plagiarism Checking:** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for 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 (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

**Mental Health:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western ([www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).