



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2180B-001**  
**International Health Inequalities**  
**Winter 2025**  
**In person**

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*This is a DRAFT only. Please see the course site for the final version.*

**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 high and low income countries are investigated, such as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, smoking, and violence.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Anti-requisite(s):** None

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the 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
- Improve your communication, writing, and analytic skills through course work.
- Reflect on your own experiences and understand them in relation to course materials.

**Course Material:**

- Textbook: An Introduction to Global Health (3rd ed) by Michael Seear & Obidimma Ezezika. Canadian Scholars (**eBook available through Western library**)
- Articles and other materials will be posted on OWLBrightspace. Please ensure that you are enrolled into the course website.

## **Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>) 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.

### ***How to contact me:***

By email: [jasmine.ha@uwo.ca](mailto:jasmine.ha@uwo.ca) and office hours. Note that email is not suitable for questions requiring considerable exposition. These questions are suited for in-person exchange during office hours (drop-in hours on Mondays and by appointment).

### ***Communication Guidelines & Expectations:***

- Messages and email will be returned within 48 business hours (unless announced otherwise). That means you may not receive a response during the evening or on the weekend.
- Be patient, avoid emailing multiple times.
- Make sure your tone and correspondence in all communication are professional

## **Method of Evaluation:**

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

In-class Exercises	30%
Midterm Exam (Feb 18, 10 AM – 12 noon)	35%
Analytica assignment (Mar 25 <u>or</u> Apr 1)	35%

**In-class Exercises (5% each, 30% total).** The weekly in-class exercises are designed to support students' learning and engagement with the course materials. To do well in these exercises, students are expected to complete the assigned readings before the lecture and participate in class discussions to ensure that they have a good understanding of the course materials discussed each week. There will be 8 exercises total from Week 2 to Week 11, excluding the Reading Week and Midterm Exam. As universal accommodation for all students, we will only count 6 of your best scores. Therefore, each completed exercise is worth 5% of your final course grade.

**Please note** that academic consideration will not be granted for missed exercises. If students miss 2/8 classes, the remaining 6 grades will be used in the calculation of the final grade. If students miss more than 3 classes, they will receive a grade of zero on each missed class. Please note, because not all elements of this assessment are required in the calculation of the final course grade, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for these missed elements.

**Midterm Exam (35%).** The exam will be held in class on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for a duration of 2 hours (10 AM – 12 noon). The exam is cumulative, covering all materials from Week 1 up to the respective exam date. Exam questions will be in both close-ended (multiple-choice or true/false) and open-ended format (short essays). The midterm exam will be closed book, no materials are allowed.

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.

**Please note:** Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course the midterm exam has been designated as requiring supporting documentation.

**Analytical Assignment (35%).** Students will complete an in-class writing assignment to analyze a specific issue in international health inequalities. Students will critically engage with the original theories and concepts learned in class to demonstrate their mastery over the course materials and the ability to apply them towards real-life problems. More information about the analytical assignment will be provided in class.

The analytical assignment must be completed in the classroom. Two time slots will be provided (Mar 25 or Apr 1). Students must choose one, but not both, time slot to complete their assignment. If you have an accessible education plan, you can write this assignment at any time scheduled by the accessibility office.

**Please note** that because the analytical assignment already includes flexibility in the form of two different dates to complete the assessment, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration following the end of the period of flexibility. There will be no additional class time allocated to complete the analytical assignment. Students who do not complete the analytical assignment will receive a zero on this component.

**Extra Credits (3%).** I am eager to learn about your learning journeys! You can submit a short reflection (300-500 words) to describe a key learning moment for 3% of the final course grade as extra credits in Week 13. Detailed guidelines will be discussed in class.

### **Student Absences:**

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

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.”

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for

academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

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.

### **Academic Policies:**

***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)

***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.

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/>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

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.

***Copyright:*** Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

***Absence from Course Commitments:*** Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that **supporting documentation is always required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the**

**office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams)** and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described in the course outline. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

**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 Academic Counselling Office.

**Missed Tests and Exams:** Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. 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. Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test/exam slots.

Students with an approved absence from a final exam in December or April will be required to write a makeup exam known as a Special Examination. Permission to write a Special Examination may be granted on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documentation provided to the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

Students who fail to write a make-up test or special examination will receive a grade of zero on that assessment. No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

**Religious Accommodation:** Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) .

Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

**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 Brightspace 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.

**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: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf). 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).

**Mental Health:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <https://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website [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).

**Additional resources:**

Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <http://westernusc.ca/services>

**Course Selection:** Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite courses they may have taken.

If a student enrolls in a course for which they do not have the prerequisites, they may be removed from the course and have it deleted from their record. This decision may not be appealed. A student will receive no adjustment to their fees in the event that they are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

If a student takes a course that is antirequisite to a course previously taken, they will lose credit for the earlier course, regardless of the grade achieved in the most recent course.

Please visit your Home Faculty Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html).

**Bookstore:** Search for Textbook availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search>