The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology

SOCIOLOGY 2180A-001
International Health Inequalities
Fall 2026
Delivery Method: In-Person

Instructor: Dr. Jasmine Ha
Email: jasmine.ha@uwo.ca

This is a DRAFT copy 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.

Pre-requisite(s): None

Anti-requisite(s): None

2026-2027

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 Materials:

- 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 on the course website.

Communication:

Students are responsible for reviewing the course OWL Brightspace site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students enrolled in the course.

How to contact me:

By email: jasmine.ha@uwo.ca and in person during office hours. Note that email is not suitable for questions requiring considerable exposition. These questions are suited for in-person exchange during office hours.

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

Course Schedule and Readings:

2026-2027

The reading list and weekly schedule are available on the course OWL Brightspace site.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Participation	6%
Practical Lab Assignment 1	45%
Practical Lab Assignment 2	49%

A note about grades: Consistent with departmental guidelines, it is expected that the average for this course will be around 70-75%. Should the final overall grades yield a value significantly below this range, grades will be adjusted upward to ensure an appropriate average for the class. Beyond the aforementioned adjustment and the extra credit activity described latter in this syllabus, students will not be permitted to do extra work, such as an extra assignment, to improve the final grade. Student evaluations are designed and graded with great care, and while I welcome you to contact me to ask questions about ways to improve, I do not change grades once they are assigned.

Participation (6% total). Students are expected to participate in class discussions to ensure that they have a good understanding of the course materials discussed each week. Generally, students will be awarded the full participation grade for each class session they attend. While it is rare, participation grade will be deducted (up to 100%) for behaviors that are unprofessional and disruptive to the class, such as:

- Extremely late arrival
- Leaving class abruptly (e.g., immediately after attendance is recorded)
- Refuse to participate in class discussions

- Attending to personal issues (phone calls, text messages, personal chats, etc.) while in class

Attendance will be taken using iClicker for a total of 8 class sessions (see the Weekly course schedule on OWL Brightspace). As universal accommodation for all students, we only count 6 of the 8 weekly participation grades. This should take care of unexpected, one-off emergencies such as accidents, sickness, etc.

Academic consideration will not be granted for the participation grades. If students miss 2 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.

Practical lab assignments (94% total). This course is designed in accordance with the principles of experiential learning. The practical lab assignments provide students with the opportunity to engage in self-directed, hands-on application of the course concepts in the classroom setting.

Practical lab assignment 1 (45%) to be held in class, for a duration of 2 hours. The first lab assignment:

- Covers materials from the first half of the course
- Is closed book (meaning: no materials allowed)
- Electronic devices will not be permitted.
- Consists of several short-answer questions
- Is designated as requiring documentation. Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration.

2026-2027

Practical lab assignment 2 (49%) to be held in class, for a duration of 2 hours. The second lab assignment:

- Covers materials from the second half of the course
- Is closed book (meaning: no materials allowed)
- Electronic devices will not be permitted.
- Consists of several short-answer questions

Students are required to write a make-up assignment for each lab assignment that they missed. There will be **only one make-up opportunity** for each lab assignment. Failure to write the make-up assignment will result in a zero grade for that specific component.

Please note that formal academic accommodation is required for writing make-up for the first lab assignment. Make sure that you follow the instructions from the Academic Counselling office to submit the right documentation to the right place and time!

Extra credit (2% for participation, 5% for the winning team). Students are invited to participate in a challenge to design a real-life public health intervention.

All students who sign up to participate will receive 2% extra credits, to be added to their final grade. You will work in teams to present your intervention and address a quick question-and-answer follow-up by the instructor and fellow students. Then the class will vote (private ballot) to determine the

winning team. All members of the winning team will receive 5% extra credits, to be added to their final grade.

Because this is an optional activity, there will not be any make-up opportunity. Students who are not able to show up on the activity date will not receive the extra credits.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism.

In the extra credit activity, the public health intervention and presentation must reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing of other take-home written materials.

2026-2027

Electronic Devices:

The possession of cellphones or other communications technologies during examinations is strictly prohibited during the two practical lab sessions. Prior to any examination, students must turn their cellphones (and other devices) off and store them in their bags/coats at the front of the room. Those with the physical possession of these technologies during the lab sessions, will result in a zero on the lab assignments. Similarly, the possession of these technologies during breaks (e.g., bathroom breaks) will also result in a zero.

Intent does not matter. Forgetting to put away your cellphone or other communication technologies, whether during the lab sessions or on breaks (bathroom breaks), are not justifications. It will result in a zero on the lab assignments in question. In sum, your cellphones and electronic devices should never be seen or heard during a practical lab sessions and should always be stored in your bags/coats at the front of the room.

Department of Sociology
Effective September 1, 2026.

Academic Policies

Scholastic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the Scholastic Offences Policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.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 the 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 Western University and 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.

Prior to any examination, students must turn their cellphones off and store them in their bags/coat at the front of the room. The use (or possession) of cellphones or other communications technologies during examinations is strictly prohibited. Those caught using a cell phone or other communication technologies, or even the physical possession of these technologies during an examination, will result in a zero on the examination in question. Similarly, the use (or possession) of these technologies during examination breaks (bathroom breaks during an exam) will also result in a zero. Intent does not matter. Forgetting to put away your cellphone or other communication technologies, whether during the examination or on examination breaks (bathroom breaks), are not justifications. It will result in a zero on the examination in question. In sum, your cellphones should never be seen or heard during an examination and should always be stored in your bags/coats at the front of the room.

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.

Code of Student Conduct: Every student is expected to comply with the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct. Sanctions for non-compliance range from a warning or reprimand to expulsion from the University. It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code and familiarize themselves with its contents. The Code is available at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf .

Student Responsibility: Students in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded. Students must ensure course prerequisites have been completed successfully or special permission from the Dean is obtained. Students who fail to so do will be removed from the course without adjustments to fees. The decision may not be appealed.

Student Responsibility for Course Selection:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf

Registration and Progression:
https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf

Graduation Requirements:
https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf

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.

Students missing regularly scheduled course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request using the Student Absence Portal (SAP) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html. 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 scheduled 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. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness must include the completed Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical certificate.pdf or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

Procedure on makeup assessments for Social Science students and for courses offered by the Faculty of Social Science (Effective September 1, 2026):

If academic consideration is granted, students should consult the course outline for information regarding how the missed assessment will be addressed and follow any instructions provided by the instructor. At the instructor's discretion, the weight of a missed test/quiz or mid-term may be transferred to another assessment in the course, including the final exam, rather than requiring a makeup assessment. Reweighting is not available for missed final exams.

Students are entitled to **one makeup assessment opportunity** for a missed test/quiz, mid-term, or final exam supported by approved academic consideration. **No additional makeup opportunities will be provided**. Makeup assessments represent the final opportunity to complete a missed course assessment. The course instructor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup text/exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test/exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test/exam.

What happens if I miss a makeup assessment as a Social Science student or in a course offered by the Faculty of Social Science?

Students who miss a makeup assessment are not eligible for an additional makeup opportunity. Depending on their circumstances, they may:

1. Remain enrolled in the course and accept a grade of zero on the missed makeup assessment. Students should consult the course outline and calculate whether they can still achieve a passing grade in the course.
2. Withdraw from the course through Student Center before the published drop deadline. A course dropped before the deadline will result in a withdrawal (WDN) without academic penalty. Part-time students should consult the Registrar's Office refund schedule to determine whether a tuition refund is available. Students enrolled full-time in 4.0-5.0 courses are generally not eligible for tuition refunds when a course is dropped.
3. If the published drop deadline has passed and the missed makeup assessment is supported by appropriate documentation, students may submit their documentation through the Student Absence Portal to request a **WDN (withdrawal without academic penalty)**. Approval is not automatic and remains subject to Faculty review. Requests for a second makeup assessment will not be considered.

Students are encouraged to carefully consider their ability to complete a makeup assessment as scheduled, as no further opportunities to complete the missed work will be available.

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 Advising Office.

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.

Guidelines for Grades/Marks:

The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are expected to follow. Generally, and with few exceptions, this means that the number of A's in a course cannot exceed the number of B's, and class means are expected to fall within a prescribed percentage range. This means that your final grade depends on your ranking relative to your peers. Courses with grades falling outside this range may be adjusted, up or down. These guidelines do not prohibit a student achieving 95% or higher in all their courses, but it does mean that an entire course cannot be made up of students receiving 95%. This policy combats grade inflation, contributing to higher standards, and ensuring uniformity across all courses of the same level. Motivated and hard-working students receive grades well above the course averages. The use of grade guidelines, including any adjustments of grades, either up or down for this purpose, cannot be used as the basis of an appeal.

Sociology 1000-Level
A's not to exceed B's
Means in the range of 68-72%

Sociology 2000-Level
A's not to exceed B's
Means in the range of 70-75%

Sociology 3000-Level
Means in the range of 73-80%

Sociology 4000-Level
Means in the range of 78-82%

Support Services:

- **Office of the Registrar Services** http://www.registrar.uwo.ca
- **Faculty Academic Advising** - Please visit your Home Faculty Academic advising webpage for information regarding adding/dropping courses, important dates, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html .
- **USC services** – information available regarding student health/dental plan, LTC bus pass, food support services, Peer support Centre etc http://westernusc.ca/services/ .
- **Mental health** – Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western https://www.uwo.ca/health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

- **Health & Wellness Services** – Registered part-time and full-time students can book a physical health appointment at https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/index.html.
- **Accessible Education** provides support and services to students with disabilities at Western, in all programs and faculties. Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.
- **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 or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experience GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing website https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.
- **Western Libraries** – Visit the many library locations on campus. Western Libraries provide access to material in physical and digital formats https://www.lib.uwo.ca/catalogue/index.html. Research support is also available https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html.
- **Writing Support Centre** – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available to undergraduate students https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/.
- **Bookstore:** Search for Textbook/course material availability and cost https://bookstore.uwo.ca/course-materials-textbooks/course-materials-and-textbooks.