

EAS 395

HEALTH, SPACE & PLACE

FALL, 2010

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Office hours: R 1100-1200, F 1100-1200 or by appointment

Class time: T, R 0930-1050
Location: HC 2-30
Website: eClass (direct link: <https://vista4.srv.ualberta.ca/webct/logon/916286510051>)

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Geographic research on health and disease, including environmental, social, individual and institutional factors. Prerequisites: Any 100-level human geography (19X) course plus any one 200-level (29X) human geography course. [Faculty of Arts]

2. COURSE OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

This course provides a broad introduction to the conceptual and empirical concerns of health geography. In so doing, it emphasizes the role of spatial patterns and relationships in shaping health-related behaviours and experiences, health outcomes, and the organization of health care systems. It also looks to closely related fields of academic inquiry that take space seriously: population health, and health promotion. The latter is a particular focus, examined via classes and readings on the health risks associated with sun exposure, intoxication, and tobacco. There is a broad focus on contemporary research in high-income countries, including Canada.

This course consists of conventional lectures, and seminars which prioritize student participation and discussion. It is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- To introduce the contributions of geographers to understandings of health, disease, and medical services.
- To illustrate the spatial dimensions of health-related behaviours and experiences, health outcomes, and the organization of health care systems.
- To promote understanding of the social determinants of health.
- To provide insight into the role of space and place in health promotion
- To develop analytical skills through writing and participation in seminars.

3. COURSE EVALUATION

Assessment	Weight	Due Date
Papers (40%)		
Article review	3%	23 Sep
Policy paper	12%	30 Sep
Essay	25%	30 Nov
Exams (60%)		
Mid-term (in-class)	20%	26 Oct
Final examination	40%	14 Dec

Important notes:

1. Achievement will be expressed in raw marks throughout the course. Final grades will be determined using a combination of absolute achievement and relative standing, subject to the following fixed cutoff: a raw mark of 50% shall suffice for a pass (i.e., a final grade of "D" or higher).
2. A previous exam paper is available via eClass. Sample mid-term questions will also be provided in advance of the test.
3. Exam date is tentative only. Students must verify the time and place of the exam when the final schedule is posted.

4. REQUIRED READINGS

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, a Reading List is provided, and all readings will be made available on-line.

5. DESCRIPTION OF ASSESSMENTS

Papers

Article review (3%) & Policy paper (12%). Students will briefly review an article on the geographies of breast feeding. They will then prepare a short paper recommending a course of action on the part of government regarding breastfeeding in publicly-accessible places. In so doing, they will reflect on provided readings, media reports, and an associated seminar.

Essay (25%). Students will write a paper of 2000-3000 words (excl. Reference List and other end matter) examining a Canadian landscape of their choice through the lens of the geographical literature on therapeutic landscapes.

Exams

Mid-term (20%). This assessment will test students knowledge of material covered in Weeks 1-7 (see *EAS 395 Schedule*). It will consist of multi-choice questions testing knowledge of readings, and an essay question focusing on one or more key concepts discussed in class. It is expected that students will be familiar with all chapters and articles assigned prior to this point. The mid-term must be taken in class on the specified day:

October 26. No explanation for absence from the mid-term exam will be accepted other than those specified in Calendar section 23.5.6. In the case of an acceptable absence from the mid-term exam, the instructor will assign further work, or have the student write a deferred mid-term.

Final examination (40%). The final exam is tentatively scheduled for 0900, 14 Dec. The exam will last two hours and will require you to write two essay-style answers, each of equal value. It will cover material from the course as a whole (i.e., it is a cumulative exam).

Deferred Final Examination. Instructors cannot grant or withhold permission for a deferred final. Students absent from a final examination may apply to their Faculty office to request a deferred final exam. They must do so within two working days to meet the application deadline. This will require documentation for various reasons. In instances of incapacity for medical reasons, a note from a doctor or health official cannot be required, but is accepted if available and offered. Arts and Science students will be required to complete a statutory declaration – available, completed, and submitted in the specific Faculty office – to describe any incapacitating condition involved. Students registered in other Faculties should consult the appropriate Faculty office for advice, within the deadline. The deferred final exam is scheduled for 0930-1130 on Fri, 28 Jan, 2011.

Reexamination. A student who writes the final examination and fails the course may apply for a reexamination. Reexaminations are rarely granted. Misrepresentation of Facts to gain a reexamination is a serious breach of the *Code of Student Behaviour*.

6. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

'The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the *Code of Student Behaviour* (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.'

All forms of dishonesty are unacceptable at the University. Cheating, plagiarism and misrepresentation of facts are serious offenses. Anyone who engages in these practices will receive at minimum a grade of zero for the exam or paper in question and no opportunity will be given to replace the grade or redistribute the weights. Any offense will be reported to the appropriate Dean, who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken.

Typical sanctions for serious violations of the *Code* have included disciplinary grade reductions, disciplinary failing grades, suspension or permanent expulsion from the University.

7. COURSE POLICIES

Instructions for Written Work

A high standard of written work is expected at all times: this means relevant content, accurate and complete referencing, and correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. Failure to meet these criteria will be reflected in the grade received. Work which is very poorly expressed, or irrelevant to the question at hand, is likely to fail.

Word limits: enforced within a +/- 10% threshold. Reference lists, appendices, and footnotes do *not* count towards the word limit.

Font: any highly legible font (e.g., Times New Roman, Arial, Garamond)

Font size: 12 point.

Margins: one inch (2.5 cm) on all sides

Spacing: 1.5 or 2.0

Quotations: if 40 words or longer, include as separate, indented paragraph (as per APA).

Page #s: include

Titles: required, but not on a separate title pages. Running headers optional.

Sections: section headings should generally be used.

Referencing: there is no universal referencing style within human geography. This inevitably causes some frustration. Books, journals and academic departments generally use some variation of the Author-Date system employed in both the APA and Harvard styles. Note that citations are in-text, and *not* footnoted, unlike in the Humanities and Law. For this course, *use the APA referencing style*.

See: <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/guides/apa/index.cfm>

Absences from term work, missed assignments

The two papers are due at the start of class on the designated date (i.e., they should be handed to the instructor at 0930).

A student who has been absent from an examination or fails to hand in assignments or other term work may apply for an excused absence in order to arrange to make up missed exams, hand in assignments late, or have components re-weighted by the instructor to “make up” for components missed owing to some incapacitating contingency.

Students are expected to contact the instructor as soon as they are able regarding the circumstances. The usual time-span is two working days, e-mail is recommended. The instructor may reject the request unless the student provides a legitimate reason, and/or if

the student did not inform the instructor of the reason for absence within the two working day deadline. In extreme cases, instructors can extend the deadline where it makes sense to do so. The Calendar lists the following examples of incapacitating conditions that would justify a consideration of an excused absence: illness, domestic affliction, religious conviction. The Calendar lists the following examples of unacceptable reasons: vacations, weddings, travel plans.

Excused absences are not automatic, and, in the case of term work and midterm exams, are at the discretion of the instructor, who may request supporting documentation. In the absence of a medical note (which cannot be required) or where the reason of the absence is something other than illness, instructors can ask students to provide one of two forms available from Faculty offices.

The instructor may decide that an approved absence should be granted and decide, at his/her discretion, how the missing exam or term work is to be made up.

Lateness

The penalty for late submission is 20% per day or part thereof. Days include weekends. By way of example, work due at 0930 Tuesday, but submitted at 1500 the following Thursday (two full days and one part day late), would be penalized 60% of the total value of the assessment. Work more than four days late will not be accepted.

Questions & Appeals

If you have an issue or question regarding the grading of an assignment, contact the instructor in writing (email is fine) outlining your concerns. There is *no* right to resubmit work in the event you are disappointed with it and/or the associated grade. Also, there will be no opportunity to replace the grade or redistribute the weights.

Cell phones

Must be turned off during lectures and tutorials.

Policy about course outlines can be found in section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.