

Department of Geography
University of Toronto
GGR340: Health Geography
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2018

Instructor: Kristian Larsen
Office: SS 5060
Office Hours: Monday: 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Email: kristian.larsen@utoronto.ca (will usually answer within 24 hours)

PREREQUISITE

Two of GGR270, GGR271 or GGR272

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exploration of the aspects of health in which place or location matters. Particular attention will be paid to the role of environments (physical, social, etc.) in explaining differences in health between places, the structuring of health-related behaviour in place, and the development of health policy for places. Classroom time will be a mix of lecture, small-group exercises, and student debates. Topics will include: spatial databases for population health, mapping health data, analyzing the spatial clustering of disease and/or injury, mapping and analyzing environmental and social risk factors. Assessment will involve completion of two written papers assignments, online tests, and a final exam.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Students should be prepared to write a paper, participate in group work and work independently on assigned tasks.

COURSE GOALS

- Identify, comprehend, and discuss foundational concepts lying at the intersection of place and health
- Review foundational concepts in health geography
- Understand the roles that environments and confounders relate to health

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- What is health?
- Explore data related to health disparities over space
- Learn how to measure health
- Determinants of health

LECTURES

Monday 3:00pm - 5:00pm, Location: SS 2105

EVALUATION

Assignments: 40%

Assignment 1: Health geography methods review paper (20%)

Assignment 2: Environment and health paper (20%)

Online Test 1: 10%

Online Test 2: 10%

Final Examination (during exam schedule): 40% (cumulative)

TA INFO

Reilley Plue: reilley.plue@mail.utoronto.ca

READINGS

The course text is available at the bookstore, and is also on reserve at the library:

Gatrell AC, Elliott SJ. 2015. *Geographies of Health: An Introduction. Third Edition.* Wiley Blackwell.

You will be assigned weekly readings from the course text and from other sources. You are expected to have read the assigned materials prior to lecture. Online tests and final exam will include questions to assess your ability to recall, define, and apply concepts and methods drawn from the assigned readings.

Assigned readings will be posted on blackboard.

Consult the reading schedule included in this syllabus.

COURSE WEBSITE

<http://portal.utoronto.ca>

Log in using your UTORid and password. The course will be listed under the My Courses module, along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses. All assignments will be submitted via blackboard. The timestamp for submission will be used to determine whether the assignment is late.

TESTS

You will have two open book tests managed through Blackboard. You will be challenged to locate, define, explain and apply concepts and methods from both lectures and assignments. Test availability in the table above refers to the time over which each quiz will be available for completion on Blackboard. Each test will be available from 9:00 a.m. on the start date, until 5:00 p.m. on the end date, as posted in the course schedule. You can start or continue your test anytime while it is available. Keep in mind, once you answer a question (even if you leave it blank) you will not be able to change your answer.

EXAM

The final exam will be written during the exam period in April and will cover the content of the entire course. Unlike the tests, the final exam is designed to assess your comprehension and ability to apply foundational concepts and will be closed book.

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be **2 assignments** in this course. Assignments will be submitted electronically and due by 5pm on the due date. Normally, students will be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their assignments to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site (www.turnitin.com). If you have an objection to the use of Turnitin for the submission of your work, please make an appointment to speak personally with the Course Instructor to discuss alternative arrangements. A guide for students is available from the University of Toronto's Office of Teaching Advancement, at:

<http://sites.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/TurnitinGuideForStudents.pdf> . This information will also be made available on the course Blackboard site.

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS FOR TERM WORK

It is every student's responsibility to ensure that their online submission is submitted successfully by the due date. Accommodations will not be made for unsuccessful submissions due to, but not limited to, i) the system timing out ii) submitting the incorrect document(s) iii) poor internet connection / no internet connection etc.

LATE PENALTIES

Late submission of assignments will result in a deduction of 10% per calendar day (weekends included) for a maximum of 7 days. If an assignment has been marked and handed back to the class, no other assignments will be accepted (even if it has not been 7 days). No re-writes will be provided if you miss the tests, if proper documentation is provided the marks will be redistributed to your final exam.

IN CASE OF ILLNESS

Requests for deadline extensions must be made to the instructor within 5 business days after the deadline, and must be accompanied by an original copy of the official university medical form. Medical forms are accepted at the discretion of the instructor. U of T medical certificate is available online: <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible. Please follow up with the professor in private to ensure your needs are met. For other needs (i.e. Religious, Illness, etc.) please see the professor in private before the assignment or exam due date.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are reminded of the seriousness of academic dishonesty of any form, particularly plagiarism. Plagiarism and other academic offences including false or altered medical forms, death certificates, or similar documents will not be tolerated. Students should also ensure they are submitting their own work and not that of others. Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism is quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper use of citation. Quotation marks are required when using an author's words. Students also should not be submitting any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor. For more information, please refer to the universities Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

REMARKING REQUESTS

First consult the TA to re-review your assignment. If the TA is unable to assist then set up a meeting with the instructor. This must be completed within two weeks of returning the assignment. The same policy applies for the tests.

Lecture Schedule

NOTE: The following information offers a general outline of what will be covered in lecture. Depending on the background knowledge of the class we may accelerate through, or take more time specific course topics.

COURSE TOPICS

Week	Date	Lecture	Reading	Assigned	Due
1	Jan. 8	Course Introduction About the class and instructor	No readings		
2	Jan. 15	Foundational Concepts in Health Geography What is health geography?	Chapter 1 + 2		
3	Jan. 22	Methods in Health Geography GIS and quantitative methods	Chapter 3 + Assigned		
4	Jan. 29	Geographies of Health Inequalities Measuring disparities in health	Chapter 6	A #1	
5	Feb. 5	Neighbourhoods and Health Why are some areas healthier	Assigned	T #1	
7	Feb. 12	Understanding Rates of Illness and Disease Applications and factors in population health	Assigned		T #1
	Feb. 19	NO CLASS READING WEEK			
7	Feb. 26	Analyzing Access to Health Care Access to care: does it matter?	Chapters 7 + 8		A #1
8	Mar. 5	Built Environment and Health (1) Health behaviours and lifestyle	Assigned	A #2	
9	Mar. 12	Built Environment and Health (2) Access and density	Assigned	T #2	
10	Mar. 19	Aging and Place Aging in place, does space matter?	Chapter 9		T #2
11	Mar. 26	Human Modification of the Environment Air, Water and Places	Chapter 11 + 12		A #2
12	Apr. 2	Course review Exam preparation			

Notes:

1. The instructor may change the topic and content of the lectures at a later time.
 2. Assigned readings will be available on blackboard.
- A = Assignment
T = Online Test