Course Description
This course focuses on current understandings of the determinants, prevention and rehabilitation related to occupational health and illness. The courses emphasis is three-fold and examines: 1) scientific evidence pertaining to occupational health and illness; 2) policies and practices related to occupational health and safety and workers compensation and, 3) development of effective interventions that reduce occupational illness and injury and that improve health related to work.

Purpose and Objectives:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the approaches, methodologies and controversies related to determining work-relatedness of occupational health and disease
2. Critically assess the scientific research literature linking occupational and work exposures to health outcomes
3. Describe policy and regulatory approaches in Canada and internationally regarding the prevention of occupational injury and illness
4. Describe policy and practice in Canada and internationally regarding the treatment, compensation and rehabilitation of workers with occupational injuries and illnesses
5. Identify and develop effective intervention strategies that reduce occupational illness and injury and that promote safe and healthy work

Instructor:
Chris McLeod, PhD MA, Assistant Professor
School of Population and Public Health
336B - 2206 East Mall (SPPH Building)
Tel: 604-822-0348  Email: chris.mcleod@ubc.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

Evaluation

| 1) Critical appraisal of scientific research article (Due Feb 16) | 25% |
| 2) Policy analysis of proposed WorkSafeBC policy change (Due March 16) | 25% |
| 3) Work & health intervention proposal, including in-class presentation component (Due April 13) | 40% |
| 4) Class participation | 10% |

IMPORTANT
Each written assignment is due to be emailed to the course instructors on time and on the designated due date. Assignments submitted later than the due date will be penalised 10% of the possible grade for each calendar day past due. Extensions of the due date for the written assignments will only be considered pending extenuating circumstances.

Students are expected to know what constitutes plagiarism, that plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct, and that such misconduct is subject to penalty. Please review the Student Discipline section of the UBC Calendar (available on on-line at www.ubc.ca).

January – April 2015
Class Schedule (subject to revision)

Introduction
Jan 5 – Introduction and overview; objectives; logic of the syllabus of moving from evidence to policy to intervention; approaches to determining the work-relatedness of occupational illness and injury; review of occupational epidemiology concepts

Assessing scientific evidence pertaining to occupational health and illness (Objectives 1 & 2)
Jan 12 – Work-related musculoskeletal injuries and diseases; chronic and acute injuries
Jan 19 – Cancers associated with occupational exposures, reproductive toxins, endocrine disruptors
Jan 26 – Psychosocial exposures; changing nature of work; shiftwork and health
Feb 2 – Respiratory diseases and allergies

Feb 9 – No class due to Family Day
Feb 16 – No class due to Reading Week

Understanding policy and practice related to occupational health and safety and workers compensation (Objectives 3 & 4)
Feb 23 – Introduction to policy and regulation; structure and organization of occupational health and safety and workers’ compensation; Canadian and international perspectives
March 2 – Policy and regulation in occupational health and safety
March 9 – Policy and practice in workers’ compensation

Developing effective interventions to improve health related to work (Objective 4)
March 16 – Intervening in the workplace and labour market to improve worker health; workplace health promotion
March 23 – Effective strategies to improve occupational health & safety to prevent injury and illness at work
March 30 – Promoting and facilitating timely and successful return to work after workplace injury or illness

April 6 – Student presentations, class synthesis and debrief of course

The reading list, detailed assignment descriptions, and marking rubrics will be posted prior December 2015.