

**SPPH 534**  
**Occupational Health and Illness Processes: Evidence to Policy to Action**

**Syllabus January – January 2015**

UBC School of Population and Public Health

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**Course Description**

This course focuses on current understandings of the determinants, prevention and rehabilitation related to occupational health and illness. The course 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 practise 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:**

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Office Hours: By appointment

**Evaluation**

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| 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](http://www.ubc.ca)).

January –April 2015

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**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.**

January – April 2015