

HLTH 3901A Emerging Issues in Health Sciences

Course description

This is an interactive seminar course that will cover topics on current scientific techniques/technologies and breakthroughs in biomedical and health sciences. Through student-led presentations and discussions, students will understand how these biomedical advances can be applied in a health context and to examine changes in physiologic function of the individual.

Topics covered

Topics change from year to year but may include emerging issues in areas such as reproductive and developmental health; infectious disease, epidemics, and antimicrobial resistance; neuroengineering; environmental health; food security; and novel biotechnologies.

Learning objectives

Students will identify emerging breakthroughs in biomedical and health sciences and critically appraise the technologies and methods driving these advances. They will examine how these issues impact different populations and contexts, including through the lenses of equity, One Health, and socialised medicine. Students will also develop skills in scientific communication, critical inquiry and teamwork.

Assessments

Students are evaluated through a combination of individual presentations and associated written deliverables (~40%), critical discussion and participation (~30%), and other written deliverables including a policy brief and final assignment (~30%). Specific assessments and weightings may vary by year.

Other useful information

Classes are a mix of instructor-led lectures, interactive sessions, and student-led presentations followed by class discussion, with the majority of sessions driven by student presentations. There are no costs associated with this course.