

HLTH3902A for Fall 2026

EMERGING ISSUES IN HEALTH SCIENCES

We, the people of the Faculty of Science at Carleton University, acknowledge that our campus is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin Anishinabeg people. Miigwetch for your hospitality and stewardship of this territory and the teachings that come from it. We are grateful for this land, the air that we breathe, and the water that sustains us all as well as for the animals, plants and other living beings: these enable us to research, teach, mentor, support, study, and learn. We recognize our responsibility to our natural environment and to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Course Instructor: Menno Oudhoff

How to address me: Professor Oudhoff / Menno / Dr. Oudhoff

Gender Pronouns: he/him/his

Email:

Note: If you have a question or would like to talk with me you can send an email (**please include HLTH3902 in subject line**), visit me during student hours (see below), or approach me after lecture.

Student Hours: Monday & Tuesday: 1-2 pm (please email to confirm, as I may have other obligations on certain dates)

Office Location:

Class Location:

Class Times:

Prerequisites: 3rd year standing, CGPA of 8.5 or higher

Preclusions: n.a.

Department/Unit: HEALTH SCIENCES

Course TA:

Topics Covered and Learning Outcomes

Teaching Statement

I am committed to fostering an environment for learning that is inclusive for everyone regardless of gender identity, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, age, class, etc. It is my hope that our class will support diversity of experience, thought, and perspective. Please feel free to contact me via email or in person to let me know about any experiences you have had related to this class that have made you feel uncomfortable. I will continually strive to create inclusive learning environments and would therefore appreciate your support and feedback. I welcome emails or in-person communications to let me know your preferred name or pronoun.

Mental Health

If you are struggling, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am happy to listen, and/or direct you to resources that might help. In terms of class, if you need extra help or missed a lesson, don't stress! Email me and we will set a time to meet. I'll work with you, I promise. Remember that Carleton also offers an array of mental health and well-being resources, which can be found [here](#).

Course Description

The field of health sciences is constantly evolving with new health challenges arising in all areas of our life and novel technologies continuously under development to face such challenges. In this seminar course, you will advance your understanding of the current state of research and practice in health sciences, with a focus on team-based, interdisciplinary discussions on emerging issues in health sciences. During this course, we will review and evaluate a mixture of different health topics ranging from the microbiome, tissue engineering, infection and immunity, autoimmune diseases, and mental health related topics. In addition to health-related discussions, this course offers a variety of opportunities for skill development including teamwork, oral and written communication and critical thinking which are all important factors in today's work environment.

Course Learning Objectives

- Work in a team to assess an emerging issue/topic in health sciences.
- Transitioning from a learner to a researcher
- Summarize and critically evaluate research literature on a defined topic.
- Strengthen your verbal and written communication skills.
- Critically assess other's research as presented to you in a seminar.
- Identify and articulate transferrable skills and competencies developed through your program.

Tentative schedule (will be updated in week 2-3 upon group and topic formation)

Week + Dates		
1: Sept 15	Introduction	What's this course/ pick your team (4 per group) / how to do research / how to present?
2: Sept 22	Literature Review	Literature Review Session Group A-G
3: Sept 29	Group A/B/C	Introduction Seminar
4: Oct 6	Group D/E/F/G	Introduction Seminar
5: Oct 13	Group A	Main Seminar
6: Oct 20	Group B	Main Seminar
7: Oct 27	READING WEEK	No class
8: Nov 3	Group C	Main Seminar
9: Nov 10	Group D	Main Seminar
10: Nov 17	Group E	Main Seminar
11: Nov 24	Group F	Main Seminar
12: Dec 1	Group G	Main Seminar
13: Dec 8	Make up day	

Important dates and deadlines can be found here:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates/academic-dates/>, including class suspension for fall, winter breaks, and statutory holidays.

Assessments

Grade Breakdown

COMPONENT	GRADE VALUE	SHORT DESCRIPTION
WEEKLY QUIZ	20%	Each group will make a quiz, your best 4 grades count to this 20% (4 out of 6 opportunities, 5% for each)
PARTICIPATION	10%	Attendance and participation
INTRO SEMINAR	25%	Introduce your general topic and emerging issue
MAIN SEMINAR	45%	General seminar

Details of components and rubrics will be provided on Brightspace.

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the final letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	D- = 50-52
F = <50			

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

ABS = Student absent from final exam

DEF = Deferred

FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = student could not pass even with 100% on final exam

Late and Missed Work Policies

Missed Work

If a student misses any evaluation without a notification, a grade of 0 will be given for that evaluation.

Learning Material(s) and Other Course/Lab-Related Resources

Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.

Required readings will be chosen by you! The seminar presenters will provide a scientific article at a minimum of one week before the seminar presentation, to give enough time for reading, class preparation and discussion questions.

Academic Accommodations and Regulations

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>).

Statement on Chat GPT/Generative AI usage

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Specifically, you are more than welcome to use these tools to benefit your studying and learning, for example it could explain complex language used in research articles.

However, it is not allowed to:

- **Use any form of generative AI to prepare any part of your presentations**

Statement on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the values of academic integrity, which include fairness, honesty, trust, and responsibility. Examples of actions that compromise these values include but are not limited to plagiarism, accessing unauthorized sites for assignments or tests, unauthorized collaboration on assignments or exams, and using artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT when your assessment instructions say it is not permitted.

Misconduct in scholarly activity will not be tolerated and will result in consequences as outlined in [Carleton University's Academic Integrity Policy](#). A list of standard sanctions in the Faculty of Science can be found [here](#).

Additional details about this process can be found on [the Faculty of Science Academic Integrity website](#).

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by [Carleton University's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students are expected to act responsibly and engage respectfully with other students and members of the Carleton and the broader community. See the [7 Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) for details regarding the expectations of non-academic behaviour of students. Those who participate with another student in the commission of an infraction of this Policy will also be held liable for their actions.

Student Concerns

If a concern arises regarding this course, **your first point of contact is me**: Email or drop in during student hours and I will do my best to address your concern. If I am unable to address your concern, the next points of contact are (in this order):

Note: You can also bring your concerns to [Ombuds services](#).

