

MDSC 205
Developing Health Research Literacy II

Instructors:

Dr. Megan Delehanty (she/her)
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Dr. Jesse Hendrikse (he/him)
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Office Hours/Policy on Answering Student Emails

Emails will generally be responded to within 2 business days

Teaching Assistant:

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Time and Location:

T 0900-1145hrs

Lectures will generally run from 0900-1015hrs. Clinics will run from 1030-1145hrs.

Check D2L for location

Prerequisite/Co-Requisite:

Medical Science 203 and admission to the BHSc Honours program.

Course Description:

Students will attend a series of lectures and more interactive “clinics.” The first few weeks of lectures will help students build a foundation in the philosophy of science. This foundation will prepare students for a series of lectures on the nature of scientific evidence and will help with students’ writing assignments. Each student will be placed in two clinics, where they will read and discuss papers on a focal topic selected by the clinic preceptor.

Overarching Theme

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Global Objectives

- 1) Students will further develop skills of reasoning and academic writing and deepen their understanding of conceptual issues in health science.

- 2) Students will learn how to recognize and evaluate arguments, use evidence to draw conclusions, consider objections and formulate replies.
- 3) Students will analyze and write about academic papers on a range of science and medicine-related topics.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should develop....

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views
- Deep knowledge of one central area of philosophical inquiry
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

Transferable Skill Development:

Many of the skills and abilities that you are developing in your coursework are transferable to the workforce, graduate and professional studies and other facets of life. Employers seek applicants with transferable skills because they can be an asset in the workplace, regardless of industry or sector. Transferable skills are core skills for your success in building your future career.

The work that you will do in MDSC 205 will help you build the following transferable skills:

- **Collaboration:** Work respectfully with others from different backgrounds, cultures, and countries.
- **Verbal Communication:** Learn and share information by presenting, listening, and interacting with others.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** Find different and better ways to do things, being curious, thinking imaginatively.
- **Critical Thinking:** Actively and skillfully conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize, and/or evaluate information (data, facts, observable phenomena, and research findings) to make a reasoned judgement or draw a reasonable conclusion.
- **Information Literacy:** Find, understand, and use information presented through words, symbols, and images
- **Written Communication:** Share ideas and information by using words, images, and symbols.

Learning Resources

All course readings will be made available through D2L.

Recommended Textbooks/Readings

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy- <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

A Note regarding readings

A list of required readings will be outlined on D2L and links and documents will be made available, where possible. Required readings have been chosen carefully to inform you and enhance the lecture material. **Students are REQUIRED to complete assigned readings BEFORE each lecture.** Instructors will proceed in class on the assumption that students have read completely the assigned readings. Students should be aware that many of the readings they will be assigned may be of an unfamiliar nature and style. Students should allot sufficient time to allow for several reads of the assigned material.

Learning Technology Requirements

Brightspace (by D2L) is located on the University of Calgary server and will be used extensively for communication with students. **It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they receive all posted communications and documents and that they receive emails sent by instructors or fellow students through D2L.** Only your @ucalgary.ca email address may be linked to D2L. Please ensure that you are regularly checking your @ucalgary.ca account.

In order to participate in in-class polls and quizzes, students will need an electronic device that can support a web browser (cell phone, laptop, tablet, etc.)

Evaluation

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in section F of the 2024-2025 Calendar.

In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Insert specifics on the weighted components of each grade and due dates in the table below or another format of your choosing (as long as all of the necessary details are provided). NOTE: Weighting nor due dates may NOT be changed during the term or at the time of grade reporting.

It is strongly recommended that you also include aligned course learning outcomes and details related to the criteria for assessment

Assessment *	Weight (% of Grade)	Due Date and Time
Analysis I	10% (= 3% individual + 7% group)	February 4 and 6 2359hrs
Analysis II	15% (= 5% individual + 10% group)	March 4 and 6 2359hrs
Term Paper Proposal	5%	24 March 2359hrs
Term Paper	35%	18 April
Peer review of term paper draft	5%	1) Draft of paper due to D@L dropbox by 2359hrs on April 3 2) Written review due to D2L dropbox by 2359hrs on April 7 and to your peer review partner (either via email or hard copy) by 0900hrs on 8 April
Perusall (reading annotations)	20%	27 January, 3, 10, 24 February, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March, 7 April
In-class online polls and questions	10%	From time to time during main lecture

Analysis I: A short (max 500 words) paper articulating the argument made in your clinic's 3rd reading. Each student will submit an individual draft of ~400 words before 0900hrs on February 4. Working in groups of ~5-6 students will develop a final draft analysis, due by 2359hrs, February 6.

Analysis II: A short (max 700 words) paper articulating the argument made in your clinic's 5th reading. Each student will submit an individual draft of ~600 words before 0900hrs on March 4. Working in groups of ~5-6, students will develop a final draft analysis, due by 2359hrs, March 6.

Term Paper Proposal: Your proposal (max 300 words) should identify your research question or problem and explain how you intend to address this question or problem.

Term Paper: An in-depth investigation (max 1500 words) on a topic arising from your clinic.

Peer Review of Term Paper Draft:

A draft of your term paper must be submitted to the D2L dropbox by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, April 2. Instructors will pair each student with another student from the same clinic after the drafts are submitted. If you do not submit a draft by the deadline, you will not be able to participate in the peer review process. (in this case, you will receive a grade of zero for the peer review assignment.) Instructors will distribute papers to their peer reviewers by email on Thursday, April 3. Each peer reviewer will submit the written portion of their review to D2L by 11:59 PM on Monday, April 7 and will either bring a hard copy of the review to their clinic on April 8 or email a copy to the student whose paper they are reviewing prior to the start of class (i.e. before 9:00 AM) on April 8.

Perusalls: Students will use Perusall, an online annotation tool, to link comments and questions to specific passages of assigned readings and to respond to their peers' comments and questions. Each student's 2x lowest Perusall scores will be excluded from final grade calculations.

In-class polls and questions: During the main lecture, students will be asked to participate in polls or short quizzes.

There will be no final exam.

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

24 hour 'stress-buster': each student may submit either the Term Paper Proposal or the Term Paper 24hrs past the due date without penalty. In order to qualify, you must write your course instructor or preceptor BEFORE the assignment due date to indicate your intent to use the 'stress-buster'. This offer does NOT apply to the analysis assignments nor to the Perusall assignments.

A Note regarding Writing Assignments:

Writing skills are important to academic study in all disciplines. In keeping with the University of Calgary's emphasis on the importance of academic writing in student assignments (section E.2 of 2024-25 Calendar), writing is emphasized, and the grading thereof in determining a student's mark in this course. The Bachelor of Health Sciences values excellence in writing. Competence in writing entails skills in crafting logical, clear, coherent, non-redundant sentences, paragraphs and broader arguments, as well as skills with the mechanics of writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation). Sources used to complete each assessment must be properly documented, unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The University of Calgary offers instructional services through the Students' Success Centre's Writing Support Services (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/writingsupport/>) for students seeking feedback on assignments or seeking to improve their general writing skills. Students are **strongly encouraged** to take advantage of these programs.

Grading Scheme:

Letter Grade	Description	Percentage
A+	Outstanding performance	95-100
A	Excellent performance	90-94.99
A-	Approaching excellent performance	85-89
B+	Exceeding good performance	80-84
B	Good performance	75-79
B-	Approaching good performance	70-74
C+	Exceeding satisfactory performance	65-69
C	Satisfactory performance	60-64
C-	Approaching satisfactory performance	57-59
D+	Marginal pass	54-56
D	Minimal pass	50-53
F	Does not meet course requirements	0-49

Missed Components of Term Work:

Students will lose 5% per day late past the deadline for all assignments. In this case, assignments will **NOT** be accepted more than 72 hours after the posted deadline and students failing to submit any assignment within this time frame will receive a mark of zero.

Course Evaluations and Student Feedback

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the new UCalgary Course Experience Survey and a qualitative student evaluation. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor. Students may also address any concerns they may have with Dr. Fabiola Aparicio-Ting, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Health and Science Education) in the Cumming School of Medicine (feapartic@ucalgary.ca).

Attendance

Regular attendance is advised in order to succeed in MDSC 205. Students are expected to take notes during class and should not rely solely on material supplied by the instructors. Instructors may or may not post lectures notes to D2L, at their individual discretion. In-class discussion and all content presented in class, including concepts and examples, can constitute substantial learning and can be considered for assessment.

Conduct During Lectures

The classroom should be respected as a safe place to share ideas without judgement - a community in which we can all learn from one another. Students are expected to frame their comments and questions to lecturers in respectful and appropriate language, always maintaining sensitivity towards the topic. Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment.

As members of the University community, students, employees and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-conduct/policy>

Use of Internet and Electronic Communication Devices in Class

The Bachelor of Health Sciences program aims to create a supportive and respectful learning environment for all students. The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. However, research studies have found that inappropriate/off-topic use of electronic devices in the classroom negatively affects the learning of others during class time.

Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>

Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), and specifically foundational models that can create writing, computer code, and /or images using minimal human prompting includes not only GPT-4 (and its siblings ChatGPT and Bing), but many writing assistants that are built on this or similar AI technologies.

Artificial intelligence tools are very good at many things, including summarizing longer texts. This is not the same thing as reconstructing the argument an author makes in an article, book chapter, or other piece of writing. Doing the latter is an important skill that we want you to develop in this course, as is critical evaluation of arguments.

Students may use AI tools to produce a summary of readings that are assigned for this course as an initial step in understanding the readings (e.g. you may use a summary of the reading to give you enough of a sense of the content to help you make your way more easily through the reading itself). However, **students may not copy or paraphrase any generative AI applications**, including ChatGPT and other AI writing assistants) **for the purpose of completing assignments in this course**. All work submitted for this class (including on Perusall) assignment must be original work produced by the individual student alone. Use of generative AI for written assignments in this course may be considered use of an unauthorized aid, which is a form of cheating and a breach of academic integrity subject to Academic Misconduct procedures.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

Copyright

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may **NOT** be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. **The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited.** Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course **at the same time** may be allowed under fair dealing.

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>. Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a Protected Ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to Dr. Fabiola Aparicio-Ting (feapartic@ucalgary.ca), Associate Dean (Undergraduate Health and Science Education).

Academic Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. The University of Calgary has created rules to govern all its members regarding the creation of knowledge and the demonstration of knowledge having been learned.

Academic Misconduct refers to student behaviour that compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes (but is not limited to): cheating, fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance, failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses, and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar. **It also includes using of third party websites/services to access past/current course material, essay/assignment writing services, or real-time assistance in completing assessments, seeking answers to assessment questions and similar, whether paid, bartered or unpaid.**

For information of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures, please visit; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>.

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity website at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures (or similar) by students is prohibited except where explicit permission has been received from the instructor.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Appeals

If there is a concern with the course, academic matter or a grade, first communicate with the instructor. If these concerns cannot be resolved, students can proceed with an academic appeal, as per Section I of the University Calendar. Students must follow the official reappraisal/appeal process and may contact the Student Ombuds' Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds>) for assistance with this and with any other academic concerns, including academic and non-academic misconduct. Students should be aware that concerns about graded term work may only be initiated **within 10 business days** of first being notified of the grade

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/e31a7115dca740ec83579e946d4a4193>

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

Resources for Support of Student Learning, Success, Safety and Wellness

Student Success Centre <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/>

Student Wellness Centre <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Advocacy and Wellness Hub (CSM)

<https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/mdprogram/current-students/student-advising-wellness>

Distress Centre <http://www.distresscentre.com/>

Library Resources <http://library.ucalgary.ca>

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Ombuds' Office

The Student Ombuds' Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

BHSc Student Faculty Liaison Committee (SFLC)

The BHSc SFLC, with elected representatives from all majors, serves to raise issues of interest to BHSc students to the program administration, including items pertaining to curriculum, scheduling and events. A list of current representatives can be found on the BHSc website.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; the SU representatives for the Cumming School of Medicine can be reached at medrep1@su.ucalgary.ca or medrep2@su.ucalgary.ca.

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

As part of the University of Calgary Emergency Evacuation plan, students, faculty, and staff should locate the closest Assembly Point in case of Fire Alarm. Safety signage is posted throughout the campus showing the locations and the possible route to these locations. All students, faculty, and staff are expected to promptly make their way to the nearest Assembly Point if the Fire Alarm is activated. No one is to return into campus facilities until an all clear is given to the warden in charge of the Assembly Area. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/drills/assembly-points-and-evacuation-maps>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.