COURSE OUTLINE
HTH SCI 3S03 COMMUNICATIONS
January to April 2018

INSTRUCTORS

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Course Instructors will facilitate student requests re: meeting times

COURSE DESCRIPTION

HTH SCI 3S03 is an introductory course that exposes students to the application of communication skills in the context of a professional helping relationship. A problem-based format is used to explore the research evidence, concepts and core skills pertaining to interpersonal communication. Students enrolled in HTH SCI 3S03 will have ample opportunities to practice interviewing skills in a safe learning environment by participating in role plays, and in simulations with standardized patients. Feedback will be provided by the course instructors, peer tutors and peers with frequent use of audio-visual reviews. The core interviewing skills will be discovered by the students in the first half of the term using an inquiry/experiential approach (e.g. role plays, interviews with standardized patients). The simulated interviews will be based on actual clinical scenarios covering a wide range of common themes (e.g. aging, mental health, death & dying, sexuality, bullying, grief & loss).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will present a variety of learning experiences to enable students to:

* better understand the relationship between the use of effective communication skills and the achievement of certain desired health care outcomes;
* develop an awareness of evidence-based core communication skills and:
* practice interviewing using an “agenda-led, outcome-based, problem-oriented” feedback approach.
METHOD OF EVALUATION

Grading:

15% = Class participation & reflections
40% = Midterm Assignment
45% = Final Assignment

Participation & Reflections:

Attendance is mandatory. Five (5) reflections will be required during the Term (which includes the final class). Five individual reflections must be submitted within the time frame designated by the Instructor (e.g. can not send in 5 reflections at the end of the term!). **NOTE**: 2 marks will be deducted from your final grade for every missing or late reflection.

Midterm Assignment:

This will be a group presentation during class #7. Each group will be required to make their own video interview for the purpose of demonstrating specific communication skills that were executed effectively and/or to show where and how opportunities were missed. Each group will be expected to support their analysis with relevant evidence-based literature.

Presentation Dates: Monday Sections (February 26th, 2018)
                   Tuesday Sections (February 27th, 2018)
                   Wednesday Sections (February 28th, 2018)

Final Assignment:

This will be an individual take home assignment. Students will be required to submit an analysis of an assigned video interview. **NOTE**: 2 marks will be deducted per day for assignments that are submitted beyond the designated due date.

Due Dates: Wednesday March 28th, 11:59 pm (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Sections)

PEER TUTORS & SIMULATED INTERVIEWS

For interviewing purposes, the class will be divided into 3 groups and assigned a Peer Tutor for the duration of the Term. The Peer Tutors will facilitate the feedback in the Centre for Simulation-Based Learning (CSBL – 1G) or in the classrooms in MDCL, and set up video taping, as well as participate in class activities. *NOTE*: The Peer Tutors will not be involved in grade evaluations.

All the interviews will take place in the CSBL- 1G or in classrooms in MDCL. **NOTE**: Sessions must begin on time. Each session will include 3 standardized patients who will rotate to a new
group about every 30 minutes. There will be limited opportunity for feedback following each interview. Generally, the second half of the class (MDCL) is used to review recorded interviews, conduct role plays, and to discuss a multitude of related issues.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic Dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”) and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at [http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm)

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which previous credit has been obtained. *(Insert specific course information, e.g. style guide)*
2. Improper collaboration in group work. *(Insert specific course information)*
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in test and examinations.

**Academic Accommodation**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca

The instructor, program and the university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If modifications become necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given. Students will be provided with an explanation and an opportunity to comment. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and the course website/Learnlink weekly during term. Any significant changes will be made in consultation with the BHSc Assistant Dean.