

HSW 299 - Independent Study (Wicked Problems in Medicine: Case Studies)
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point Spring 2024 Syllabus
One Credit

Class Meetings: 5:30PM – 7:20PM on Wednesdays from March 27 through May 8 by Zoom:
<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/94495928902?pwd=azdLUnhCcVlVK1hKLORKRWNkaXZCQT09>

Instructor: Dr. Kristine Prah

Office: Room 285-B on the Wausau campus

E-mail: kprahl@uwsp.edu

Office Hours: Room 285-B in Wausau or by Zoom (<https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/9042747100>)
9:00 to 10:00 am US Central Time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Other times by appointment.

Course Materials: All required materials and assignments will be posted on Canvas.

Course Description and Prerequisites

“Independent study covering one or more health or wellness concerns. May be repeated for credit.”

A major goal of this course is to help you begin thinking about the medical issues in a more nuanced way, beyond sick patients and physicians treating symptoms to help patients get well. Many health conditions arise due to a combination of factors – genetics, education, socioeconomic status, community/place of residence, and so on, and these factors may also influence the preventative measures and treatments available to and acceptable to an affected individual. Similarly, health care providers are often constrained by time with patients, limitations on the treatments that insurers will pay for, and policies instituted by employers, licensing or accrediting bodies, or government agencies. A major goal of this course is to increase your understanding of the socioecological model and how complex healthcare-related problems occur at individual, interpersonal, institutional, and policy levels. At the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), medical case studies are being used in courses taken by medical students to help them better understand these kinds of complexities in providing medical care to patients. We will use two MCW case studies that have been adapted somewhat for our use – one involving diabetes and another involving dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. Prerequisite: Instructor Consent.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. Be able to search scientific literature and use the literature for a research presentation.
2. Be able to communicate scientific information clearly orally and in writing.
3. Describe the social, economic, political, and institutional factors associated with diabetes.
4. Describe the social, economic, political, and institutional factors associated with dementia.

Course Expectations

Students are expected to be present at all virtual class meetings. Discussion-based assignments will be done in class sessions. So, unexcused class absences may negatively affect a student’s course grade. Please discuss with your instructor in advance the reason for any absences which you feel should be excused. The instructor and students are expected to show respect for everyone in the class. Reading and written assignments should be completed before the designated class meeting time. The work that each student hands in should be in his or her own words. For effective communication, students are expected to type and spell-check your work on assignments. Students should daily check their UWSP student email account and UWSP Canvas as some class announcements, handouts, and reading assignments will be given using these technologies. Scores on

assignments will be posted on Canvas, and an estimation of your course grade will be kept updated during the semester on Canvas.

Graded Activities

You can earn a total of 290 points in this course, as follows:

- 140 pts (20 pts/session) – Attend all class meetings and participate actively in each class period.
- 150 pts (25 pts/session except the first class meeting) – Submit written responses to the discussion questions about the assigned reading. Your responses will be due before the start of class. I will evaluate your answers for correctness, quality of writing, thoroughness, thoughtfulness, creativity, and evidence of honest effort.

Letter Grades

Percentage points will be converted to letter grades using the following table:

≥ 92% = A	72-77% = C
90-91% = A–	70-71% = C–
88-89% = B+	68-69% = D+
82-87% = B	60-67% = D
80-81% = B–	< 60 % = F
78-79% = C+	

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is an expectation of each UW-Stevens Point student. Campus community members are responsible for fostering and upholding an environment in which student learning is fair, just, and honest. Through your studies as a student, it is essential to exhibit the highest level of personal honesty and respect for the intellectual property of others. Academic misconduct is unacceptable. It compromises and disrespects the integrity of our university and those who study here. To maintain academic integrity, a student must only claim work which is the authentic work solely of their own, providing correct citations and credit to others as needed. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and/or helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. Failure to understand what constitutes academic misconduct does not exempt responsibility from engaging in it. For more information on UWS chapter 14 visit: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology

One goal of this course is for you to work on developing the discipline-specific writing skills that you will need to be successful as a professional in this field. I want to acknowledge that recent buzz about ChatGPT and other generative AI tools poses some interesting questions about the need for developing these skills, and how such tools can be used in higher education. Given that this technology is still in its infancy and that my goal is for you to develop your skills as writers, the unauthorized use of ChatGPT or other AI writing tools is not permitted in this course. Students found to be using such tools will be considered as engaging in conduct aimed at making false representations of a student's academic performance and will be subject to disciplinary action as defined in the [UWSP Academic Misconduct Policies](#).

Tentative Course Schedule (Subject to Reasonable Change with Notification)

Date	Homework Assignments and In-Class Activities
In class March 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to finding, evaluating, and reading clinical research. • Group behaviors and social contract.
Homework due April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Diabetes case, part 1. • Find and read reputable background information needed to answer Diabetes part 1 questions. • Submit written answers to Diabetes part 1 questions.
In class April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class work on physiology and diagnosis of diabetes.
Homework due April 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Diabetes case, part 2. • Find and read reputable information needed to answer Diabetes part 2 questions. • Submit written answers to Diabetes part 2 questions.
In class April 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class work on significance of lab and exam findings.
Homework due April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Diabetes case, part 3 and assigned reading on cultural views of Western medicine. • Find and read reputable information needed to answer Diabetes part 3 questions. • Submit written answers to Diabetes part 3 questions.
In class April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class work on communicating with patients about diagnosis and treatment. • Dr. Kevin Thao 6:20 pm on understanding patients' cultural perspectives on medical care.
Homework due April 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Dementia case, part 1. • Find and read reputable background information needed to answer Dementia part 1 questions. • Submit written answers to Dementia part 1 questions.
In class April 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class work on screening and diagnosis of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.
Homework due May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Dementia case, part 2. • Find and read reputable information needed to answer Dementia part 2 questions. • Submit written answers to Dementia part 2 questions.
In class May1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class work on review of systems, physical exam, and work-up.
Homework due May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Dementia case, part 3. • Find and read reputable information needed to answer Dementia part 3 questions. • Submit written answers to Dementia part 3 questions.
In class May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia case, part 3. In-class work on communicating with patients about diagnosis and treatment. • Scott Seeger, representative from Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central WI (ADRC), at 6:30 pm.

Policy on Late Work

Submit assignments on time. If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, notify the instructor prior to the time it is due. You must have an acceptable reason for handing in an assignment late. Failure to submit an assignment on time may delay the grading of your work. You may lose some or all of the points from a late assignment if your instructor has not given you permission to hand in the assignment late. The standard late penalty will be a loss of 10% of the points per day.

Absences and Tardiness

You are responsible for material covered in all class sessions, including class sessions that you miss partially or entirely. If you miss a class session, please check with your instructor in advance of the meeting. Assignments must be handed in on time (this includes assignments that were given or due in your absence) unless your instructor has given you permission beforehand to hand in the assignment late.

Proper Use of Course Materials

Course materials for HSW 299 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. Students may not copy or share course materials outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Tutoring-Learning Centers (TLC)

The Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) helps students in all disciplines become more effective, confident learners. We believe all learners benefit from sharing work with knowledgeable, attentive tutors. The TLC offers four tutoring services:

- **Academic Coaching:** Build skills in studying, time management, test-taking, online learning, and more.
- **Course Content:** Practice problems, deepen understanding, and prepare for exams in natural resources, STEM, World Languages, and more.
- **Reading/Writing:** Brainstorm and refine papers, essays, lab reports, citations, résumés, scholarship applications, personal writing, and more.
- **Tech Essentials:** Develop computer literacy and learn to use UWSP-related applications such as Canvas, Microsoft 365, and Zoom.

The TLC is located in 234 Collins Classroom Center (CCC). For more information, visit <https://www3.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/default.aspx> or call 715-346-3568. You may also self-schedule using Navigate or send an email to tlctutor@uwsp.edu. For more information about STEM tutoring see <https://www3.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/CA-tutoring.aspx>.

Title IX

UW-Stevens Point is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and institutional policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes harassment, domestic

and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In the event that you choose to disclose information about having survived sexual violence, including harassment, rape, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, and specify that this violence occurred while a student at UWSP, federal and state laws mandate that we, as your instructor, notify the Title IX Coordinator/Office of the Dean of Students. Please see the information on the Dean of Students webpage for information on making confidential reports of misconduct or interpersonal violence, as well as campus and community resources available to students.

Dean of Students: <https://www.uwsp.edu/DOS/sexualassault>

Title IX page: <https://www.uwsp.edu/hr/Pages/Affirmative%20Action/Title-IX.aspx>

Navigate Student App

For those of you looking to connect with other students in the course for study groups, the Navigate student app has a feature called **Study Buddies**. Here, you can find a list of other students who have indicated they are interested in forming a study group. If you are the first, you will be sent notifications when other students join. You can select who you want to connect with and can leave the group at any time. Additionally, the Navigate student app can help you with the following at UWSP:

- Schedule appointments
- Remove Holds from your account
- Find important resources
- Learn of key dates and important to-dos on campus
- View your class schedule

Accessing the Navigate student app: For students who have already downloaded the Navigate smart phone app, choose the **Study Buddies** icon, and a full list of your courses will appear. Each section shows how many buddies are in the group. The free Navigate app is available to download from any mobile operating system. For students without a smart device, a desktop version of the app is available here: <https://uwsp.navigate.eab.com/app>

Equal Access for Students with Disabilities

The University has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 54 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The university's philosophy is to not only provide what is mandated but also convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please contact the instructor as well as the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), located on the Stevens Point campus. Students can also pick up an application for accommodations packet in the Solution Centers on the Marshfield and Wausau campuses.

DATC contact information:

(715) 346-3365 (Voice)

(715) 346-3362 (TDD only)

or via email at datctr@uwsp.edu

Care Team

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is committed to the safety and success of all students. The Office of the Dean of Students supports the campus community by reaching out and providing resources in areas where a student may be struggling or experiencing barriers to their success. Faculty and staff are asked to be proactive, supportive, and involved in facilitating the success of our students

through early detection, reporting, and intervention. As your instructor, I may contact the Office of the Dean of Students if I sense you are in need of additional support which individually I may not be able to provide. You may also share a concern if you or another member of our campus community needs support, is distressed, or exhibits concerning behavior that is interfering with the academic or personal success or the safety of others, by reporting here: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Anonymous-Report.aspx>.