Note: This timetable is tentative, and topics may change based on current research.

**Marking Scheme:**

| Grant Proposal on “Peer Scholar” Create Phase Fri Feb 12/21; Assess Phase; Fri Feb 26/21; Reflect & Final Grant Submission Fri Mar 5/21 | 30% | Group Participation (throughout term) | 15% |
| Grant Proposal 2 Fri March 23/21 | 30% |
| Seminar Presentation (various dates) | 25% | Total | 100% |

*Peer Scholar Grant Assignment, 3 parts: Marking scheme: 10/30 for Create, 5/30 for Assess, 5/30 for Reflection and 10/30 for final grant submission

**Course Website:** On Quercus

**Turn It In**

Normally, students will be required to submit their reports to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

**Note:** Students are expected to participate in all classes.

January 12, 2021
Welcome to JEH455H1S Current Issues in Environment & Health
Course Syllabus Summary 2021

Instructor: Ron Wilson, Ph.D., Human Biology, r.wilsonjr@utoronto.ca
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:10 – 3 pm, or when needed, Bb Collaborate
Melanie Jeffrey, Ph.D., Human Biology & Indigenous Studies,
melanie.jeffrey@utoronto.ca, Office hours: 3:10-4 pm, Bb Collaborate

Lectures: Tuesdays from 12 pm – 2 pm, on Blackboard Collaborate

Arts & Science Calendar Course Overview [12L, 12S]: This course introduces students to complex
issues at the interface between environment and health where health is broadly defined. Each year a
current and controversial case study is explored from scientific, medical, political and policy perspectives.
The course takes students from the molecular to individual to population and societal levels.

Prerequisite: 4th year status; ENV341H1/HMB301H1/HMB302H1/HMB312H1/HMB314H1/
HMB322H1

Course Description:
“Government of Canada Takes Action on Another Chemical of Concern: Bisphenol A
On April 18, 2008, the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, and the Honourable John Baird,
Minister of the Environment, announced that the Government is taking action to protect the health of
Canadians and the environment from another chemical of concern. Canada is the first country in the
world to complete a risk assessment of bisphenol A in consultation with industry and other stakeholders,
and to initiate a 60 day public comment period on whether to ban the importation, sale and advertising of
polycarbonate baby bottles which contain bisphenol A.” (quoted from
This current and controversial bisphenol A case will be used as a starting point for understanding
current issues in environment and health. How does the Canadian government reach decisions about
chemical substances? What roles do industry, the media and nongovernmental organizations play? How
does this translate into public policy in Toronto, Canada, internationally? What does it mean for
individual Canadians?
The highlight of the course is the diverse expertise of the guest lecturers. Scientists from
academia, industry, government and nongovernmental organizations provide different and sometimes
conflicting perspectives on the scientific and medical facts and interpretations. Environmental experts
from academia, the media, law associations and Toronto Public Health, together with the scientists,
provide important insights into the political and policy implications.

Readings: Various sources relevant to each class will be required reading.