

## JEH 455H1, Current Issues in Environment and Health

| <i>Seminar</i> | <i>Speaker</i>                                                                       | <i>Seminar Topic</i>                                                     |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 11     | Melanie Jeffrey/Ron Wilson                                                           | Introduction                                                             |
| January 18     | Dr. Paul Bozek, U of T Dalla Lana School of Public                                   | Exposures in Occupational Settings Health                                |
| January 25     |                                                                                      |                                                                          |
| February 1     | Dr. Miriam Diamond School of the Environment                                         | Flame Retardants and eWaste                                              |
| February 8     |                                                                                      |                                                                          |
| February 15    | Dr. Melanie Jeffrey, Human Biology & Indigenous Studies                              | Mercury Poisoning and Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows) First Nation |
| February 22    | Reading week                                                                         |                                                                          |
| March 1        | Journal Club                                                                         | Seminars                                                                 |
| March 8        | Dr. Grazyna Kalabis, Ministry of the Environment, Human Toxicology and Air Standards | Toxicology's Impact on Policy                                            |
| March 15       |                                                                                      |                                                                          |
| March 22       | Bonnie Hamilton, Rochman Lab                                                         | Microplastics and Inuit Health                                           |
| March 29       |                                                                                      |                                                                          |
| April 5        | Journal Club                                                                         | Student Seminars                                                         |

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

### **Marking Scheme:**

|                                                                                                                                                 |     |                                       |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|------|
| Grant Proposal on "Peer Scholar"<br>Create Phase Fri Feb 4/22;<br>Assess Phase; Fri Feb 18/22;<br>Reflect & Final Grant Submission Fri Mar 4/22 | 30% | Group Participation (throughout term) | 15%  |
| Grant Proposal 2<br>Fri March 25/22                                                                                                             | 30% |                                       |      |
| Seminar Presentation (various dates)                                                                                                            | 25% | Total                                 | 100% |

\*Peer Scholar Grant Assignment, 3 parts: Marking scheme: 10/30 for Create, 5/30 for Assess (2.5%x2 Peers), 5/30 for Reflection and 10/30 for final grant submission

### **Original**

[“Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University’s plagiarism detection tool 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 tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>). Account information will be posted on the course Quercus site.

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

# JEH 455H1, Current Issues in Environment and Health

## Welcome to JEH455H1S Current Issues in Environment & Health Course Syllabus Summary 2022

**Instructor:** Ron Wilson, Ph.D., Human Biology, [r.wilsonjr@utoronto.ca](mailto:r.wilsonjr@utoronto.ca)  
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:10 – 3 pm, or when needed, Zoom  
Melanie Jeffrey, Ph.D., Human Biology & Indigenous Studies,  
[melanie.jeffrey@utoronto.ca](mailto:melanie.jeffrey@utoronto.ca), Office hours: Tuesdays 3:10-4 pm, Zoom

**Lectures:** Tuesdays from 12 pm – 2 pm, on Zoom (meeting ID: Password:)

**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 [http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/challenge-defi/bisphenol-a\\_e.html](http://www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/challenge-defi/bisphenol-a_e.html) 6/29/08).

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.