

## POTH 250 INTRODUCTION TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

**Credits:** 3

### **Course coordinators/Instructors:**

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**Course description:** This interdisciplinary course introduces physical and occupational therapy students to the fundamentals of professionalism and professional behavior within a healthcare context.

**Expanded course description:** Students will learn the basic skills necessary to conduct a professional initial interview and implement client-centered activities. During visits with selected individuals within the community, students will apply their learned professional communication and interviewing strategies and will use reflective practice to develop self-assessment skills. Other skills that students will develop in this course include: literature searching strategies, cultural sensitivity concepts, health promotion concepts, ethical principles, and massage/professional touch techniques.

**Course structure:** This course is a follow-up course to PHTH/OCC1-245 Seminars given in the fall semester. This course will incorporate three (3) hours a week of lectures and/or labs. This course is offered in the U1 year of the winter term.

**Learning objectives:** With attendance, active participation in classes and labs, and self-directed learning activities, students will develop the following core competencies as they relate to the roles for physiotherapists<sup>1</sup> and occupational therapists<sup>2</sup>:

#### 1. Expert

- a) Conduct an effective interview with an individual to obtain information about health, functional abilities, participation, and personal and environmental factors.

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<sup>1</sup> Essential Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada, October 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Profile of Occupational Therapy Practice in Canada, 2012.

- b) Select appropriate client-centered leisure activities for individuals and conduct activities with the individual's informed consent.
- c) Apply basic therapeutic touch principles and massage techniques in accordance with the individual's informed consent.

### 2. Communicator

- a) Employ effective and professional verbal and nonverbal communication with individuals, peers and educators.
- b) Listen effectively, demonstrate an awareness of self-behaviors, evaluate the responses of others, and adapt communication appropriately.
- c) Provide and receive constructive feedback.
- d) Conduct a professional interview.

### 3. Collaborator

- a) Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with peers, educators and individuals from the community.
- b) Demonstrate an understanding of and a respect for the differing perspectives of others during collaborative activities.

### 4. Advocate / Change agent

- a) Identify the basic health needs and concerns of individuals.
- b) Develop appropriate health promotion recommendations for an individual.

### 5. Scholarly practitioner

- a) Use principles of reflection and reflective practice to further develop professional competencies and professional/personal identity.
- b) Apply literature search principles to identify evidence which supports sound decision making.

### 6. Professional

- a) Identify and explain the roles that occupational and physical therapists play in primary health care.
- b) Define and apply the concepts of professionalism in various settings.
- c) Define the major principles of cultural sensitivity and how they apply to various scenarios.
- d) Recognize ethical issues, evaluate them by identifying their implications on all involved stakeholders, and make informed ethical decisions.

**Course materials:** No textbook is required for this course. A list of required and suggested readings, handouts, and lecture notes will be posted on *MyCourses*.

**Copyright of course materials:** Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, PowerPoint presentations, student assignments, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructors. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

**Student assignments and evaluations:**

- All assignments will be graded by the course instructors, librarian, and/or teaching assistant(s).
- Grading rubrics will be used for all student assignments and evaluations.
- Students have a right to an impartial and competent re-read of any written assessment and, where warranted, a revision of the grade received, by a third party, if requested within a reasonable time after the notification of a mark. ***Please note that this revision may result in an increase or decrease of the grade.***
- The following is a link to McGill's student assessment policy:  
[https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/2016-04\\_student\\_assessment\\_policy.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/2016-04_student_assessment_policy.pdf)

**Special requirements for course completion and program continuation:** In order to pass the course, a grade of at least C+ (60%) must be obtained as a total course mark. In order to pass the course, students must also pass the individual components of the course with a grade of at least a C+ (60%). Please refer to the appropriate sections in the undergraduate calendar on University regulations regarding final and supplemental examinations. This course falls under the regulation concerning individual and group evaluation. Please refer to the section on marks in the Rules and Regulations for Student Evaluation and Promotion of the Occupational Therapy Course Guides.

**Plagiarism/academic integrity:** McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#) .

**Right to submit in English or French written work that is to be graded:** In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

**Skills building attendance mark:** Attendance at all seminars and site visits (literature searching workshop, shadowing visit, SIM centre, Communi-Action visits, reflective seminar, and massage labs) is mandatory. Students may not miss more than 15 % (i.e. no more than 1 per term) of these activities without valid documented reasons (illness, family tragedy, sports). If they do, 10% of the total course mark will be removed.

**Consequences of unprofessional behaviours:** Students who are flagged for unprofessional behaviour during off-site visits will be required to submit

remedial work. Continued unprofessional behaviours may result in failure of the course and/or academic disciplinary actions.

**Consequences of not completing assignments as requested:** Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day, including weekends. It is the student's responsibility to verify that all electronic submissions to MyCourses were successfully uploaded. Technical issues will not be accepted as a reason for late submission. As such, early submission of assignments is recommended.

**Dress code:** Professionalism with respect to dressing is encouraged throughout the course of the semester. It is each student's responsibility to have appropriate attire during all class assignments and learning activities. *During Communi-Action and SIM Center activities, students must be dressed professionally and wear their nametags.*

**Disability:** If you have a disability, please contact the instructors to arrange a time to discuss your situation. *Students must contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at (514) 398-6009, and register with the office, before scheduling a meeting with the instructors.*

**Technology in class:** Your respectful and attentive presence is expected. While you are permitted to use your laptop in class, it is understood that you will not be using your laptop or mobile device for social purposes during class time (e.g. email, facebook, texting, browsing, etc.). Your mobile devices should be on silence during class time and phone calls should only take place during the break or after class.

**Course evaluations:** End-of-term course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available on *Minerva/Mercury*, the online course evaluation system. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the end-of-term course evaluations. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

**In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.**