

We recognize and acknowledge that McMaster University meets and learns on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the "[Dish With One Spoon](#)" wampum, an agreement amongst all allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

IBEHS 2EH3 – INNOVATING CARE: NAVIGATING CANADA’S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM 2026 Fall Term

Instructor: Michelle MacDonald | **E-mail:** macdonml@mcmaster.ca | **Phone Extension:** 22316

Office: MDCL 3515 | **Office Hours:** As posted to Avenue each week

I will post office hours on Avenue throughout the term so that you can pop by for advice, guidance or a pep talk!

Teaching Assistants:

Jackson MacDonald macdoj68@mcmaster.ca
Ania Mihaila mihailaa@mcmaster.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the Canadian healthcare system and is designed for future healthcare innovators aiming to improve care delivery. Students will learn about the system’s structure, policies, and funding, while gaining insights into the roles of key stakeholders – patients, providers, payers, and policymakers. Emphasis is placed on the impact of technology across medical subspecialties and the challenges and regulations surrounding healthcare innovation.

Course Details

Lectures:

Section 1 (CO1)

- Tuesday 12:30-1:20 p.m. BSB B156 – in person
- Wednesday 10:30-11:20 a.m. BSB B156 – in person [§]
- Wednesday 12:30-1:20 p.m. BSB B156 – in person [§]
- [§] September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – no class

MATERIALS & FEES None

REQUIRED MATERIALS/ RESOURCES None

Textbook

Designing Your Life by Burnett & Evans ISBN 978-1-101-87532-2 is available for purchase through [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) (optional)

VIRTUAL COURSE DELIVERY

To follow and participate in virtual classes it is expected that you have reliable access to the following:

- A computer that meets performance requirements [found here](#).
- An internet connection that is fast enough to stream video.
- Computer accessories that enable class participation, such as a microphone, speakers and webcam when needed.

If you think that you will not be able to meet these requirements, please contact uts@mcmaster.ca as soon as you can. Please visit the [Technology Resources for Students page](#) for detailed requirements. If you use assistive technology or believe that our platforms might be a barrier to participating, please contact [Student Accessibility Services](#), sas@mcmaster.ca, for support

COURSE WEBSITE

Course information and content will be posted on Avenue to Learn. Please check Avenue daily for important information and notices. In addition, partial class notes will normally be posted the night before class meetings. We will expand on these partial notes in class, in addition to discussion of current research and guest speakers. Attendance in class is therefore imperative.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

This course will use Avenue to Learn announcements for communication. I may also send urgent messages via your McMaster email. I am always very happy to answer questions at the beginning and at the end of every class! If I don't have meetings or other classes, I will usually come early and stay late if you would like to speak with me privately before or after class. Please attend class and office hours if you have questions or need help.

If you are sending an email about your MSAF or accommodation, please use the following subject line format: course code and brief description (ie. "BIOCHEM 3D03 MSAF").

EVALUATION

Assessment	Individual/ Group	Grading	Weight	Due Date **
1. Personal project	Individual	Ania	5 %	September 12 by 5:00 pm
2. Course co-design	Group	Jack	10 %	September 10 by 5:00 pm
3. Attendance/participation	Individual	All	24 %	ongoing
4. Homework as assigned	Individual	TBA	21 %	ongoing
5. Mid-term progress conference	Individual	Instructor	5%	to be scheduled in Oct
6. End of term progress conference	Individual	Instructor	10%	to be scheduled in Nov
7. Project	Group	TBA	20 %	November 16 by 5:00 pm
8. Future Vision	Individual	TBA	5 %	December 4 by 5:00 pm

****Students who receive an approved MSAF or SAS accommodation will automatically receive a 3-day extension. It is not necessary to contact the course instructor. An MSAF may not be used after the last day of class. Note that TAs cannot grant extensions. A late penalty will be applied by the instructor if you do not have an accommodation or submit an approved MSAF.**

Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics

- Assignment guidelines and rubrics for this course are to be used **as a guide**. These documents will not tell you explicitly and exactly what to write or what not to write.
- When submitting manuscripts, grant applications, award applications and references, word limits or page limits can sometimes be firm. For the purposes of this course, word limits and page limits are flexible, with +/- 20% either way. There is no need to message your instructor or TA if you choose to apply this variance.
- Your TA will provide you with feedback on your work according to the rubrics and guidelines.

Regrade Requests and Final Marks

- If you have a concern with your grade, please submit a regrade request form **within one week** of receiving your graded work. Your entire work will be regraded, meaning that your mark may go up or down. This will be your final grade.
- Please take **48 hours** to review your work carefully before requesting a regrade. We ask the TAs to provide general constructive feedback that may require you to review your submission against the course notes, guidelines, rubric or solution set.
- The regrading policy can be found here:
<https://biochem.healthsci.mcmaster.ca/education/undergraduate/forms-and-procedures/>
- The TAs and instructor will not regrade your work on the spot or via email.
- The instructor will not reweigh components of the course for individual students due to poor performance on an assignment, and there are no opportunities for extra credit.
- The instructor will round up the final mark for each student to the nearest letter grade at the end of the year. There is no set point for rounding up. It will vary from term to term.

Your Health and Wellbeing

- Your health and wellbeing is important. We understand that being a student requires you to manage a lot of responsibilities and work.
- It is important that you balance all of this with proper sleep, nutrition and breaks for your wellbeing. This is one of the reasons that we have set most of our assignments to be due at 7:00 pm.
- In order to be as fair and as consistent as possible, we cannot accommodate reweighting academic work.
- **If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances, please contact your student advisor or program advisor to discuss a plan for obtaining an MSAF or other appropriate accommodation.**

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

Policy Regarding Late or Missed Work

Late Work

Late penalties will be assessed at 10 % per day, including weekends. After 3 days, the work will not be accepted and a grade of 0 will be assigned.

Missed Work

If you are absent from the university for a minor medical reason, lasting fewer than 3 days, you may report your absence, one per term, without documentation, using the McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>). Absences for a long duration or for other reasons must be reported to the Associate Dean of Science office, with documentation, and relief may not necessarily be granted. After filling out the MSAF you must immediately contact your course instructor (normally within 2 working days) by email to learn what relief may be granted for the work you have missed and relevant details for submission or location of make-up test. Please note that the MSAF may not be used for term work worth 30% or more, nor can it be used for the final exam.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please

refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

In this course, we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

USE OF GENERATIVE AI

Students are not permitted to use generative AI in this course. In alignment with [McMaster academic integrity policy](#), it "shall be an offence knowingly to ... submit academic work for assessment that was purchased or acquired from another source". This includes work created by generative AI tools. Also state in the policy is the following, "Contract Cheating is the act of "outsourcing of student work to third parties" (Lancaster & Clarke, 2016, p. 639) with or without payment." Using Generative AI tools is a form of contract cheating. Charges of academic dishonesty will be brought forward to the Office of Academic Integrity.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities \(the "Code"\)](#). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.



The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

RESEARCH ETHICS – N/A

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.