



Western
Arthur Labatt Family
School of Nursing



FANSHAWE
School of Nursing

N2270/NRSG7113

NURSING CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS

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N2270/NRSG7113 NURSING CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS

Course Description:

Aging is a major factor impacting healthcare delivery in the 21st century, and older adults are the core consumers of health care. In this course, students apply clinical decision-making by correlating physiologic, psychological and environmental interactions with older adults while focusing on cultural, social, ethical, and legal concepts of care.

Expanded Description:

In this course, students explore the fundamental principles of aging and personal and family-centred nursing care for the older adult population in a variety of health care settings. Students will learn the normal aging process and the impact of diseases in older age. Students will learn how to approach geriatric assessments given the complexities of this population and understand the role of interprofessional team collaboration in caring for older adults. Students also develop an understanding of the existing resources, policies and legal aspects of senior care prevailing in the community based on Ministry of Health and Long-term Care guidelines. This course will encourage students to engage actively and acknowledge the various community services of geriatric care and how to incorporate those into their future nursing careers.

Corequisite: Laboratory & Clinical Application: Engagement in Care

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours

Course Learning Outcomes:

Successful students will be able to:

1. Explore the fundamental principles of aging, including the meaning of person and family-centred nursing care for the older adult population in a variety of health care settings
2. Explore the social determinants of health and the impact of health inequities on the aging trajectory
3. Identify nursing interventions for improving quality of care, based on the needs of older adults and their families
4. Explain how the interprofessional healthcare team collaborates with older adult populations and their families to achieve client-centred goals
5. Examine health policies, legal and ethical issues, and end-of-life care in the older population, considering ethnic and cultural background.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness and availability of health care programs and services for older adults.

Entry-to-Practice Competencies for Registered Nurses (CNO, 2019) addressed in the course

List examples of competencies that are most relevant to the course by number

1. Clinician: 1.4,1.7,1.13, 1.25
2. Professional: 2.1, 2.5, 2.8, 2.9,2.12
3. Communicator: 3.2,3.3, 3.5, 3.6
4. Collaborator: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5
5. Coordinator: 5.1, 5.6, 5.7
6. Leader: 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.10

7. Advocate: 7.1, 7.6, 7.10, 7.11, 7.14
8. Educator: 8.2, 8.3
9. Scholar: 9.1, 9.3, 9.8, 9.5, 9.6

Course Materials:

Required:

There is no required textbook. Course materials are accessible to you via Western Libraries/ OWL/FOL or on the internet.

Recommended:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Methods of Evaluation

Assignment	Percentage of Course Grade	Due
Reflection #1	5%	September 19 2355h
Test #1	25%	Week 5 – in class
Test #2	25%	Week 9 – in class
Reflection #2	5%	November 21 2355h
Final Exam – Multiple Choice	40%	Exam Period

1. **Reflective Assignments: 10% of course mark**
 This assignment encourages you to explore and critically assess your perceptions and beliefs about older adults and their interactions with the health care system. Students will individually complete 2 written reflections worth 5% each. Assignment details will be discussed in class and posted on the course site. Reflection #1 is due September 19, and Reflection #2 is due November 21, by 2355h.

2. **Test #1: Multiple Choice and Short Answer Test – 25% of course mark**
Due: Week 5 during regularly scheduled class time (1 hour)
 This test will include material from weeks 1-4.
 If a student is absent for this test, they are to contact the academic counsellor and course professor as soon as possible and before the test begins. If an accommodation is warranted and granted, a make-up assignment will be arranged. The make-up assignment *may* be in a format different from the short answer test, for example, an essay or reflective assignment.

3. **Test #2: Multiple Choice and Short Answer Test – 25% of course mark**
Due: Week 9 during regularly scheduled class time (1 hour)
 This test will include material from weeks 5-8.
 If a student is absent for this test, they are to contact the academic counsellor and course

professor as soon as possible and before the test begins. If an accommodation is warranted and granted, a make-up assignment will be arranged. The make-up assignment *may* be in a format different from the short answer test, for example, an essay or reflective assignment.

4. **Final Exam – 40% of course mark**

Due: Scheduled during the examination period. Readings, online discussions, and course content from weeks 1 to 12 will be included. The test will consist of multiple-choice questions and be 2.5 hours in length.

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	September 5	Foundations of Aging
2	September 12	Care Across the Continuum I
3	September 19	Care Across the Continuum II
4	September 26	Healthy Aging and Person-centered Care
5	October 3	Case Study: Application of Course Concepts
6	October 10	Physiological Changes in Aging
Reading Week		
7	October 24	Geriatric Syndromes I
8	October 31	Geriatric Syndromes II
9	November 7	Mental Health and Aging
10	November 14	Cognitive Health and Aging; End-of-life Care
11	November 21	Ethical and Legal Issues in Aging
12	November 28	Opportunities for Care of the Older Adult

Lecture timetable is subject to change (as needed) throughout the course.

Undergraduate Program Site

All students are required to visit the Undergraduate Program Site and be familiar with its contents. The Undergraduate Program Manual and full list of School of Nursing Policies can be accessed at: [Program Manual 2024-2025 - Collaborative Nursing Program Homeroom \(fanshaweonline.ca\)](http://fanshaweonline.ca)

Policies

All policies related to assignments are in the Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual on the [Undergraduate Student Information site](#) (Western) and on [Table of Contents - Collaborative Nursing Program Homeroom \(fanshaweonline.ca\)](#) under “Collaborative Nursing Policies” (Fanshawe)

Assignments and Exams

Please refer to the Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual for UWO academic guidelines for

penalties for late assignments, re-grading of assignments, and the protocol for missed mid-term or final exams. The Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual is found at [School of Nursing Policies](#)

Support Services

There are various support services around campus, and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Academic Support and Engagement - <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca>
2. Wellness and Well-being - <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

The websites for Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>), and the same for affiliated university colleges when appropriate, and any appropriate Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>) and the Student Development Services, should be provided for easy access.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>

Attendance

Students are expected to demonstrate professional responsibility through regular attendance at, and participation in, all course learning activities. Much of the learning that takes place is a result of preparation and engagement with the material, as well as active dialogue with colleagues and faculty. Students are expected to organize their schedules such that weekly preparation for class is completed, and classes are attended, with consistency.

Attendance for clinical learning experiences is mandatory. Students missing more than 2 labs, **regardless of the reason**, will be given an unsuccessful course outcome. Students **will not** receive a written warning of their absences. The student will be notified of an unsuccessful course outcome by the course coordinator following the third absence from lab. Please visit the SON SharePoint site for further information about this and other school policies:

[Undergraduate Program Site](#)

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes), when there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period), or when timed assessments (e.g., quizzes) are available over an extended period of time (e.g., when you are given a 72 hour time period to start – and finish – the assessment).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given based on compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examination dates. The Faculty of Health Sciences has set School-specific dates for these Special Examinations.

Please speak with your instructor about the date on which the Special Examination for this course will be held.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_under_grad.pdf.

Plagiarism

Student work is expected to be original. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and could lead to a zero on the assignment in question, a zero in this course, or your expulsion from the university. You are plagiarizing if you insert a phrase, sentence or paragraph taken directly from another author without acknowledging that the work belongs to him/her. Similarly, you are plagiarizing if you paraphrase or summarize another author's ideas without acknowledging that the ideas belong to someone else. All papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Completion of Course Work

Within this course, you may only use artificial intelligence tools (e.g. "ChatGPT") in ways that are specifically authorized by the course instructor. All submitted work must reflect your own thoughts and independent written work.

Re-submission of Previously Graded Material

Without the explicit written permission of the instructor, you may not submit any academic work for which credit has been obtained previously, or for which credit is being sought, in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

Use of Statistical Pattern Recognition on Multiple Choice Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to

ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner. Students are further expected to attend to announcements presented through Brightspace, and to read emails generated in this way.

Use of Electronic Devices:

During Exams

Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glass, smart watches, or iPods) during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations. **These devices MUST either be left at home or with your belongings at the front of the room. They MUST NOT be at your test/exam desk or in your pocket. Any student found with a prohibited device will receive an automatic grade of zero on the test or exam.**

During Lectures and Tutorials

Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class.

Brightspace

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>. If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Contingency Plan for an In-Person Class Pivoting to 100% Online Learning

In the event of a situation that requires this course to pivot to online content delivery, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e. at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g. posted on Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other

serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Online Proctoring

Tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

Social Media

Students who post information on social media related to their clients and/or laboratory experiences will be reported to the Associate Dean of Health Sciences as this demonstrates a breach of client privacy and confidentiality and violates the Student Code of Conduct. Such behavior may compromise a student's standing in the program.