



N2270A/NRSG7113

NURSING CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS

Fall 2026

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NURSING CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS N2270A/NRSG7113

Course Description:

Canada's aging population is growing rapidly, with nearly 25% of Canadians projected to be over the age of 65 by 2031. In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore strengths and challenges experienced by older adults within the context of health and health promotion. Cultural, social, political, ethical and legal concepts of care will be critically examined and applied.

Expanded Description:

Students will consider and critique the fundamental principles of aging and people-centred nursing care for the older adult population. Assessments that consider the complexities of older adults and interprofessional team collaboration in caring for older adults will be a focus. The normal aging process and the impact of disease in older adults will be examined. Current trends and best practices will be explored to promote students' understanding and recognition of the significance that community services and collaborative care have for older adults. Existing resources, policies and legal aspects of caring for older adults based on Ministry of Health and Long-term Care guidelines will be applied.

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 people-centred nursing care for older adults
2. Explore the social determinants of health and the impact of health inequities on the aging trajectory
3. Identify nursing role 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 people-centred goals
5. Explore the context of care for older adults considering the impact of legal, ethical, and socio-political policies that shape the health and well-being of older adults
6. Supports healthy public policy and advocates for principles of social justice for older adults.

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

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, 7.8, 7.10, 7.11, 7.14
- 8. Educator: 8.2, 8.3
- 9. Scholar: 9.1, 9.3, 9.8, 9.5, 9.6

Technical Requirements

Internet connection, Laptop computer

Important Dates

Classes Begin	Reading Week	Classes End	Study Days	Exam Period
September 9	October 10 – 18	December 9	December 10	December 11-22

September 30, 2026, is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and is a non-instructional day.
November 30, 2026: Last day to withdraw from a first-term half course without academic penalty.

Delivery Mode:

Lecture, in-person

Course Materials

Required:

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

Recommended:

This program uses APA style for scholarly writing. This link provides useful information regarding APA: <https://apastyle.apa.org/>. Additionally, the *Concise guide to APA style: the official APA style guide for students* is available from Western Libraries.

Methods of Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assignment	Weighting
Reflection #1	10%
Midterm – MC & Short Answer	30%
Reflection #2	20%
Final Exam – Multiple Choice	40%

1. **Reflective Assignment #1: 10% of course mark**

This assignment aims to encourage you to explore and reflect on your perceptions and beliefs about older adults and the aging process. Assignment details will be discussed in class and posted on the course site.

You are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded; incorrect submissions including corrupt files could be subject to late penalties (see below) or a 0. Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (see statement in policies below).

2. **Midterm Test (Multiple Choice and Short Answer): 30% of course mark**

Date: Oct 29th during regularly scheduled class time

This midterm will include material from weeks 1-7.

If a student is absent for this midterm, they are to contact the academic advisor and course professor as soon as possible and before the test begins. Students who miss the scheduled midterm examination and provide the required documentation will be eligible to write one make-up midterm examination on the designated make-up date. If your original absence is approved your academic advisor will contact you regarding the makeup date. Students who miss the make-up midterm examination, the weight of the missed midterm examination may be transferred to the cumulative final examination. The make-up assignment *may* be in a format different from the multiple choice and short answer test. Please note that this assessment is designated as requiring supporting documentation if you seek academic consideration if absent for this assignment. Students must not provide medical or compassionate documentation to the instructor.

3. **Reflective Assignment #2: 20% of course mark**

For this assignment, students critically examine how their understanding of aging and older adults has developed over the term. This 2–3-page reflection should incorporate insights gained from course materials, discussions, and professional practice experiences, highlighting any shifts in perspective. This will contribute to your self-awareness and personal growth, and help to prepare you for compassionate, informed care of older adults in your nursing practice.

You are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded; incorrect submissions including corrupt files could be subject to late penalties (see below) or a 0. Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below).

You are expected to submit this assignment by the deadline listed. Should extenuating circumstances arise, you are permitted to submit your assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. No Academic Consideration is required for this extension. Academic consideration requests may be granted only for extenuating circumstances that began before the deadline and lasted longer than the extension. Students must not provide medical or compassionate documentation to the instructor.

If the assignment is submitted after the 72 hour extension, and you have not consulted with your academic advisor for accommodation, upon submission of the assignment a late penalty will be applied to the date of the original deadline. For example, if the

assignment is due on November 20th at 2355 hrs and you submit your work 4-days late on November 24th without an accommodation from your advisor, you will have 20% of your grade deducted from your assignment (this is in accordance with the 5% per day late assignment policy, up to a maximum of 10 days, after which you will receive a zero, as School of Nursing policy). This policy only applies to Reflection #2.

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

Date: During the Final Exam Period

Scheduled during the examination period. Readings, online discussions, and course content from weeks 1 to 13 will be included. The final exam will consist of 90 multiple-choice questions and be 3 hours in length.

If a student is absent for the final exam, 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. You cannot use undocumented absences for final exams.

Rounding of Grades (For example, bumping a 79 to 80%)

This is a practice some students request. The final grade documented is the grade that you have achieved. There is no rounding to the next grade level, or ‘giving away’ marks. Please do not request this.

Class Schedule

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

Week	Topic
1	Foundations of Ageing
2	Care Across the Continuum I
3	Care Across the Continuum II
4	Healthy Ageing and Person-centered Care
5	Physiological Changes in Ageing; Polypharmacy
6	READING WEEK
7	Geriatric Syndromes I: Frailty and Falls
8	MIDTERM (2 hours)
9	Geriatric Syndromes II: Incontinence and Malnutrition
10	Cognitive Health and Ageing
11	Mental Health of Older Adults
12	Ethical and Legal Issues in Caring for Older Adults; End of Life Care
13	Opportunities for Care of the Older Adult

NOTE: All course information including grades, assignment outlines, deadlines, etc. are available via [OWL Brightspace](#). Download the Brightspace Pulse App to stay up-to-date on course communication and enable your notification settings within “Communications” in the top toolbar. Check the website regularly for course announcements. If you need assistance, visit [OWL Brightspace Help](#) or contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Undergraduate Program Site

All students are required to visit the Undergraduate Program Site and be familiar with its contents. 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).

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.

Scholarly Requirements

All scholarly writing will follow the 7th edition of the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (2020). All other types of writing will follow APA (7th ed.) format when citing or referencing another author’s work or ideas. Failure to do so is unethical and is plagiarism.

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. You are plagiarizing if you present your own work, otherwise used for other course(s)/purposes, as original material in current course work. At the discretion of the instructor, you may be required to submit your work through **Turnitin.com** to verify originality **and are responsible for acting on the report generated**. For further information, please see the BScN Program Manual for the academic policy on plagiarism.

Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Completion of Course Work

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, with students expected to uphold

academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

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.

Review of Graded Assignments

After a graded assignment is returned, a student's first step is to take time to reflect on the assignment description in the syllabus, on the feedback provided by the original marker within the assignment, and on the marking rubric. If a student cannot understand the meaning or intent behind the feedback received, they may submit a written request to the original marker for an informal consultation to review the assignment grade. The request must include documentation of grounds, based on the marker's feedback, to support the assignment review. An assignment will not be reviewed simply because a student is unhappy with the grade received, or they believe the mark does not reflect the effort they put into completing the assignment. Students who need assistance with their writing skills should contact on-campus resources for support:

Western: <http://writing.uwo.ca/>

Fanshawe (select Fanshawe Library Learning Commons):

<https://www.fanshawec.ca/students/support/academic-support>

If, after the assignment review, a student still believes they have grounds with supporting documentation that their grade was unfairly calculated, they may request a formal appeal of the grade in accordance with the policy for academic appeals (<https://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/> or <https://www.fanshawec.ca/about-fanshawe/corporate-info/policies/a128-student-academic-appeals>)

Assignments and Exams

Please refer to the Undergraduate Programs Manual for information on 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:

<https://uwoca.sharepoint.com/sites/NursingUndergraduateInformation> and FOL, Collaborative Homeroom.

Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to define the general standard of nonacademic conduct expected of students, to provide examples of conduct that may be subject to disciplinary action or restorative measures by the College, to set out the actions that may be imposed, and to describe the disciplinary procedures that the University or College will follow. For more information, visit <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf> or [Policies | Fanshawe College](#).

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on Academic consideration, located in the Western-Fanshawe Collaborative BScN Program Manual.

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.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes an Academic Offence, in the Academic Integrity Policy. [Link](#)

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 Accessibility Services at 519-452-4282 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

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

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 be referred for investigation of a Scholastic Offence, per the policy listed above. The typical first-offence penalty for possession of a prohibited device is zero on the test or exam.

Any student found with a prohibited device will be referred to the Director of the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing for a Scholastic Offence, with the recommendation that they receive a grade of zero on this assessment.

You MAY NOT use any electronic devices (e.g., calculators, cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glass, smart watches, or iPods) during tests or exams. These devices MUST be left

with your belongings at the front of the room. They **MUST NOT** be at your test/exam desk or in your pocket.

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.

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.

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

It is a breach of privacy and confidentiality, and highly unprofessional, to post information on any social media platform about:

- Peers
- Class activities/discussion
- Clients

- Agencies
- Laboratories
- Simulations
- Communications with professors

Students will be reported to the Associate Director (Western) or Associate Dean (Fanshawe). Such behaviour may compromise a student's standing in the program.

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/gbsv/support/index.html>

Statement on Harassment and Discrimination

Western is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. All students, staff, and faculty have a role in this commitment and have a responsibility to ensure and promote a safe and respectful learning and working environment. Relevant policies include Western's [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35) and [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy – Administrative Procedures](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35). Any student, staff, or faculty member who experiences or witnesses' behaviour that may be harassment or discrimination **must report the behaviour** to the Western's [Human Rights Office](#). Harassment and discrimination can be human rights-based, which is also known as EDI-based, (sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, islamophobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, and ableism) or non-human rights-based (personal harassment or workplace harassment).

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 on the basis of 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.

Campus Supports

Western University is committed to a thriving campus. For help with:

- Both physical and mental health, go to [Wellness & Wellbeing](#)
- Studying with disabilities, go to [Accessible Education](#)
- Writing skills, go to the [Writing Support Centre](#)
- Learning skills and strategies, go to [Learning Development & Success](#)
- Contacting the ombudsperson, go to the [Office of the Ombudsperson](#)

Your course coordinator can also guide you to available campus resources and/or services.

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) or Fanshawe Health and Wellness <https://www.fanshawec.ca/students/support/health-wellness/counselling> for a complete list of options for obtaining help.