



HS2711B: Health Issues in Aging Winter | 2025

Prerequisite(s):

Minimum of 60% in each of Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B.

Course Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Afshin Vafaei

Email: avafaei2@uwo.ca

Office Hours Day / Time: TBA

Location: TBA

Lectures Day / Time: TBA

Tutorials Day / Time: TBA

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous Peoples whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

Accessibility Acknowledgement

Meaningful ways to incorporate equity into the student experience are important to the School of Health studies. To that end, we honour all manner of differences inherent within the student population and incorporate accessible options for inclusion to the best of our abilities in each course offering

Course Description

This course will examine, from an interdisciplinary perspective, fundamental issues associated with ageing and the complex interaction of physical, psychosocial, and environmental issues that influence the health and well-being of older adults.

Learning Objectives:

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

- a) provide students with an understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of issues related to health and aging at both the individual and population level.
- b) enable students to evaluate complex bio-psycho-social determinants of the aging process; interaction of disease, disability, frailty and the ability of our health system to cope with a rapidly aging population.
- c) recognize issues in aging, engage in critical reflection and advocate change in their families, communities and in their future careers in health care and research.

Course Format and Timetable

The issues related to the health of older adults will be explored systematically in three sections.

Week/Date	Topic/Focus	Readings	Tutorial
Section 1: Status of Population Aging Today			
Jan. 9, 2025	Aging today	Chapter 1	No tutorial
Jan. 16, 2025	Aging population	Chapter 3	
Jan. 23, 2025	Social aspects of aging, ageism	Extra, on OWL. p. 36-50 of Funk	
Section 2: Aging and Health			
Jan. 30, 2025	Physical health and aging	Chapter 5	
Feb. 6, 2025	Mental health and aging	Chapter 6	
Feb. 13, 2025	Midterm		No tutorial
Fall Reading Week: Feb. 17-21, 2025			
Feb. 27, 2025	Social health and aging	Chapter 10	
Mar. 6, 2025	The concept of healthy aging	Chapter 14 of Satariano & Maus; on OWL BrightSpace Citation: Smith, M. L., Ory, M.G., & Prohaska, T. R. (2018). Healthy aging and its implications for public health: Social and behavioral interventions. In W. A. Satariano & M. Maus, <i>Aging, Place, and Health, A global perspective</i> . Jones and Barlette Learning. PHAC Healthy Aging document; on OWL BrightSpace Lu et al. (2018). Domains and measurements of healthy aging in epidemiological studies: A review. <i>The Gerontologist</i>	
Section 3: Care and Aging			

Mar. 13, 2025	Healthcare	Chapter 7	
Mar. 20, 2025	Social support and caregiving	Chapter 13	
Mar. 27, 2025	Dying and death	Chapter 14	
Apr. 3, 2025	Public policy for an aging population Wrap up and final exam review	Page 420-426 of Wister 2019; on OWL BrightSpace Citation: Public policy for an aging population. In A. V. Wister (2019). <i>Aging as a social process</i> (pp. 420-426). OUP.	

Required Course Material:

Novak, Northcott, & Kobayashi (2022). *Aging and Society: Canadian Perspectives* (9th Ed.)

We will be using Top Hat to access the following Top Hat Interactive Textbook - ***Aging & Society: Canadian Perspectives, 9th Edition***

Evaluation

By **March 7**, 2025, students will know 25% of their final grade.

Assessment	Weight of Final Mark	Due Date
Midterm	25%	Feb. 13, 2025
Tutorial activities	20%	Jan.13 until April 4th
Summary and analysis of a poster presentation	20%	April 4, 2025
Final exam	35%	During the exam period (April 7-30, 2025)

Tutorial Activities: 20% of the overall grade

Students are already assigned to one of the 14 weekly tutorial times (please refer to the Western Timetable for your section, **change of sections are NOT allowed**). Students are expected to attend and participate actively in **all** tutorial activities facilitated and supervised by assigned Teaching Assistants. For a full grade, participation in 8 tutorials is required (2.5 each, *8=20). Depending on the nature of the activity, students are expected to complete the task in-class or submit their work to OWL BrightSpace.

Summary and Analysis Assignment: 20% of the overall grade

In this visually driven assignment, students will apply their critical thinking and analysis to an issue that relates to health and aging. A sample of posters that have been presented in international and national conferences and been through rigorous peer-reviews will be available. Students will select a poster and analyze the content using the course materials. In writing, you must meet the following requirements:

- **Summary of the content** presented in a short paragraph with a focus on the core issue(s) brought up in the poster
- **Development of a central question** to describe the core issue(s) in the general population of older adults
- **Use of course materials** (e.g., theories, concepts, themes) to build your critical analysis
- **Conclusion of the analysis** with a strong and personalized takeaway message

A key requirement for this assignment is providing close **connections** between your work and course materials. The analysis should go beyond the definition of concepts or theories and demonstrate how it helps you to understand and explain the core issues in the whole population of older adults. Further details will be discussed in the class during the term.

This assignment should be **3 (three) double-spaced typed pages (12- font)** excluding cover and reference pages. You must cite **at least 4 references** from relevant course materials, such as assigned readings. Please use the 7th edition of the APA for this assignment and **fully edit your paper** before your submission by **Friday, April 4, 2025, before 11:59 pm**. Please make sure you **indicate my name, your TA's name as well as your section** on the cover page. A 5% per day deduction will apply to late submissions (out the 20% weight) unless you have approved academic accommodation. Submissions later than 3 days will have a mark of zero (0).

Midterm (25%) and Final (35%) Exams:

Two exams will evaluate students' deep understanding of course materials. The midterm exam will take place at the regular meeting time on February 13, 2025 and the final exam will be scheduled by the Exam Central during the formal exam period (April 7 to April 30; 2025). Both exams will be in multiple choice and matching format. **The final exam is cumulative.**

Missed work

Attendance at all classes is **mandatory**, and it is not possible to provide equal opportunity for all students to make-up for the missed classes. **All materials** covered in the classes are **testable**, including discussions in lectures and tutorials that are orally communicated. If you are absent from a graded class activity, you will receive a zero for the activity.

Missed Exams

If you are too ill to write a quiz or exam or there are other 'extenuating circumstances beyond your control' you **must** document this either with a medical certificate (if available). If you are ill for an extended period of time, it is your responsibility to contact the teaching team immediately on your return to campus. Please see the Academic Consideration policies below. Only **one** make-up time will be scheduled for missed midterm in the week after the reading week on **Friday February 28th, 2025**. **TENTATIVE final examination common make-up** dates in May 2025 will be provided when the Final Exam schedule is released by the *Exam Central*.

Course/University Policies

The website for the Registrar Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

In accordance with [policy](#), 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 his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

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 Mental Health@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 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.

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 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.

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, in the [Academic Calendar \(westerncalendar.uwo.ca\)](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca).

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 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.

Personal Response Systems: ("clickers") may be used in some classes. For those classes in which we use this technology, it is your responsibility to ensure that the device is activated and functional. You must speak with the course instructor immediately, if you have any concerns about whether or not your clicker is malfunctioning. You must use only your own clicker. For all components of this course in which clicker records are used to compute a portion of the grade:

- The use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence;
- The possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offense.

Academic Considerations and Absences from Lectures and Assessments

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request (in writing) any necessary academic considerations at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the academic counsellors in their Home Department. Additional information is provided in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Academic Accommodation

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. Students with ongoing accommodation needs within this course are also encouraged to contact [Accessible Education](#), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances that are medical or compassionate in nature. These extenuating circumstances may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. In all cases, students are advised to consult with the

academic counsellors in their home units, at their earliest opportunity. Academic counsellors may refer students to [Accessible Education](#) for ongoing academic accommodations.

Most forms of academic consideration require documentation, and this documentation is to be submitted to academic counsellors within five (5) business days of their return to academic responsibilities. Any such documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's [Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy](#). Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic considerations shall be determined by academic counseling, in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic considerations may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic considerations shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”).

Whenever possible, students who require academic considerations should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Under no circumstances are students expected to submit rationales for (or documentation of) any absences, to course instructors. Students are, however, required to follow-up with course instructors, in a timely fashion, to identify the ways in which the academic consideration will be implemented.

Examination Conflicts

A student completing tests or examinations with flexible submission times (e.g., where one or more evaluation is a take-home assessment) cannot request alternative arrangements unless a conflict cannot be avoided by rescheduling writing the exam to a different time within the window specified by the instructor. This applies to direct conflicts as well as “heavy load” conflicts (e.g., three exams within a 23-hour period). The student should discuss any concerns about a potential conflict and/or request academic considerations with their academic counselling unit prior to the deadline to drop a course without academic penalty.

In the case of online tests and examinations, use of a “Conflict Room,” wherein student can write two proctored exams concurrently, will be interpreted as arrangements for continuous proctoring.

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 OWL 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>

Grades

Where possible assignment objectives and rubrics will be posted on OWL. Generally, students can expect some form of feedback on their performance in a course before the drop date.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work that is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable.
F	Below 50	Fail

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' of marks. Please don't ask me to do this for you; the response will be "please review the course outline where this is presented".

Appealing a Grade Within this Course

You have the right to appeal any grade within this course. The grounds for a grade appeal may be one or more of: medical or compassionate circumstances, extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, bias, inaccuracy, or unfairness. All grounds advanced in a request for relief must be supported by a clear and detailed explanation of the reasons for the request together with all 10 supporting documentation.

Appeals generally proceed in this order:

1. Course instructor (informal consultation)
2. Department Chair (submission of written request)
3. The Dean of the Faculty (submission of written request)

In the case of perceived procedural unfairness, steps 2 and 3 are carried out within the Department and Faculty offering the course. In the case of extenuating medical or compassionate circumstances that impact on a grade, steps 2 and 3 are carried out within a student's Home Department and Faculty.

A request for relief against a mark or grade must be initiated with the instructor as soon as possible after the mark is issued. In the event that the instructor is not available to the student, or fails to act, or if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily with the instructor, a written request for relief must be submitted to the Chair of the Department within three weeks of the date that the mark was issued. In the case of a final grade in a course, the written request for relief must

be submitted to the Chair of the department by January 31st (for first-term half courses) or June 30th (for second-term half courses or full-year courses)

Health and Wellness

Information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>

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

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:
Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
Ombudsperson Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>