

The University of Western Ontario  
School of Health Studies  
**Health Sciences: Palliative & End of Life Care**  
**HS 4710B**  
January - April 2023

Instructor: Dr. Afshin Vafaei

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00 am to 12:30 PM or by appointment

Location: Health Sciences Building – Room 215

TA: Leila Amirfakhrian - [lamirfak@uwo.ca](mailto:lamirfak@uwo.ca)

Lecture Times: Thursdays 4:30-6:30

Location: University Community Centre (UCC) – Room 67

Tutorials: Wednesdays 9:30-10:30

Location: Art and Humanities Building (AHB)-1B08

Course Website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/>

### **Prerequisite Checking**

Health Sciences 2711A/B or the former Health Sciences 3711A/B

### **Course Description**

This course will explore, from an inter-disciplinary perspective, critical issues related to death, dying, palliative and end of life care relevant to health professionals working in a variety of settings. Topics include an introduction to death and dying in Canadian society, socio-cultural influences on our understanding of death, theories used to guide practice, an understanding of the dying person's experience, principles of palliative care, ethical and legal issues, and health system initiatives and challenges.

### **Learning Objectives**

This course offers an introduction to death, dying, palliative, and end-of-life care with a focus on the Canadian context. This course will examine factors that influence individuals' end of life experiences from a wide variety of perspectives. By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Ø explain current best palliative care practices, as well as the individual and systemic challenges of palliative care within the health system
- Ø offer future directions to improve the end-of-life experiences of individuals across the age spectrum
- Ø have a better understanding of the dying person's experience, as well as the experiences of those around them
- Ø recognize the special palliative care needs of various groups

## **Textbook & Reading List**

Most reading are selected chapters of these two textbooks that are available in electronic format through [Western Libraries](#). You do not need to purchase a copy.

Ø Bruera et al (2021). Textbook of Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care.

Westerm Library link: [https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL\\_UWO/1hdoga6/alma991045469819105163](https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/1hdoga6/alma991045469819105163)

Ø Blank et al (2007). Choices in Palliative Care. Issues in Health Care Delivery.

Westerm Library link: <https://books.scholarsportal.info/en/read?id=/ebooks/ebooks2/springer/2011-04-28/5/9780387708751>

Additional readings will be posted in OWL. A main requirement is arrangement for a strong internet connection for accessing online materials.

## **Statement on contingency plan for in-person class pivoting to online learning:**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, 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.

**In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction**, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge th



## **Evaluation and assignments**

By **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 2023, students will know 15% of their final grade.

### **Tutorial Activities: 20% of the overall grade**

Starting in the second week, every Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 students are expected to attend and **actively** participate in tutorial sessions. Concepts learned in the week before will be discussed and expanded upon during tutorials. For full marks,

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### **Statement on 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 Web site: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academiccalendar/)

### **Statement on 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.

**During Lectures and Tutorials:**



