

HS4710B: Palliative & End of Life Care

Winter | 2025

Prerequisite(s):

Health Sciences 2711B.

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

Tutorial Activities: 20% of the overall grade

Starting in the second week, every Tuesday from 4:30 to 5:30 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, active participation in 8 tutorials is required (2.5 each, *8=20).

Group Assignment: 30% of the overall grade (Presentation 10%; Paper 20%)

The goal of this assignment is a deep evaluation of palliative care approach for a specific population and their specific care needs. Students will apply what they learned in sections 1 and 2 in their work. This assignment, to be completed in groups of 5-6 students, includes two components: a short (7-8 minutes) in-class presentation in weeks 10 to 12 and a written paper to be submitted two weeks after the presentation day. As a group or individually students select a specific population in need of palliative care and send it to the instructor before Jan. 24, 2025 for approval. Examples of specific populations: individuals with HIV, older adults with dementia, youth with end stage leukemia.

The presentation provides an opportunity for receiving feedback from the instructor and fellow classmates. Please check your timing during a practice run. It is expected that the written paper considers all valid feedback and be a reliable scientific work.

There will be measures to ensure a fair participation within groups for a more equitable experience. Half of the mark for this group assignment will be based on the individual performance either by peer evaluation or by grades for itemized components of the assignment. Therefore, students in the group might receive different grades. Details about the logistics and content of the assignment will be discussed throughout the semester.

Midterm (20%) and Final (30%) Exams:

Two exams will evaluate students' deep understanding of course materials. The midterm exam will take place at the regular meeting time (4:30-6:30 PM) on February 13, 2025 and the final exam will be scheduled by the *Exam Central*

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>

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, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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

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

conflict and/or request academic considerations with their academic counselling unit prior to the

