The University of Western Ontario  
School of Health Studies  

Health Sciences HS4710b  
Palliative & End of Life Care

Instructor: Catherine Campbell-Johnston, PhD, MA, BA (Philosophy), PTA/OTA, RCA  
January 2016

Email: TBA  
Office Room Number: TBA  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:15-10:15 or by appointment

Tutorials: Wednesday 10:30-11:30 – HSB 35

Lectures: Friday 9:30-11:30 – AHB 2B04

Prerequisite Checking

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Please refer to the current Western Academic Calendar at www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca for further details.

Course Information

Students will explore the concept of palliative care within a health sciences/health professions context. They will learn about demographic and population trends, how attitudes and practices related to death and dying have changed over the years, what it means to experience a life-threatening illness in western and other cultures, what palliative care is, how to provide holistic care to terminally ill and bereaved individuals, and how the palliative care system works locally, regionally and nationally. Emphasis will be placed on an inter-professional approach to palliative care and critical issues affecting the practice of health professionals. Students will also be introduced to palliative care issues from the patient’s/family’s perspectives and explore ethical and legal decisions, challenges and dilemmas at the end of life. Throughout the course, students will have opportunities to interact with recognized experts in the palliative care field. Students will also have many opportunities for critical reflection and discussion.

Learning Philosophy

The learning process is considered to be a collaborative effort between faculty and students. The instructor will endeavour to stimulate student’s engagement of the course material through interactive lectures and course activities. Students are invited to contribute to learning community by actively participating in discussion and classroom activities, attending classes and tutorials, and providing the instructor with suggestions, comments, and constructive feedback. Students are also encouraged to share any relevant material with the class and are asked to forward such material to the instructor at least two days before the related lecture. As examination material will cover both textbook and lecture material, students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and take
lecture notes. The instructor is available to support students with any difficulties or concerns related to the course and welcomes conversations regarding specific learning needs.

**Learning Environment**

The topic of death and dying can often evoke strong personal convictions and engage difficult memories. This may illicit strong emotions and students are encouraged to treat their peers with respect and kindness. The nature of the classroom is not conducive to any assurance of confidentiality, and students are reminded to be cognizant of this when sharing personal information. Likewise, the instructor will make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of personal information shared in submitted assignments unless disclosure is otherwise required by law or university policy.

Students emotionally triggered by course materials are encouraged to seek out the support of university counselling services.

A full listing of available counselling services is listed at:
http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/counselling.html

**Use of Technology**

Students are encouraged to consider the use of technology in the classroom as a tool to enhance learning and engage with course materials in alternative ways. However, there is an expectation that students will refrain from any use of technology that will prevent themselves or others from full engagement in the classroom community. As per university policy, electronic devices are not permitted during exams.

**HS4710** is supported by OWL (https://owl.uwo.ca). All grades and assignments will be returned on OWL rather than being provided in class, by telephone, or by email. Students are asked to carefully monitor the announcements menu on the course website for any changes or cancellations in lectures, readings or assignment due dates.

**Accessibility**

The instructor will endeavour to use a variety of methods and mediums to make the course and course material accessible to learners with a variety of learning styles. Students are encouraged to be proactive in discussing their learning styles with the instructor at the beginning of the term. As per university policy, students requiring specific accommodations should meet with either their academic counsellor or services for students with disabilities who will partner with the instructor in ensuring that the student’s specific learning needs are met.

**Course Materials**

   Canada: Nelson Education (available at UWO Bookstore).
B. Weekly readings posted on OWL. Please note which posted readings are required and which are there simply for your reference.

**Class Schedule:**

The course consists of two lecture hrs. (Friday mornings) and one tutorial hour (Wednesday mornings) per week.
### Lecture Details:

*Syllabus* -- Topics and required readings are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 8</td>
<td>Introduction to Death, Dying, and Palliative Care in Canadian Society</td>
<td>Chapter 1 &amp; OWL Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 15</td>
<td>Attitudes Toward Death &amp; Dying</td>
<td>Chapter 2 &amp; OWL Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>The Influence of Religion, Culture, and Age</td>
<td>Chap’s 3, 4, 6 &amp; 8 + OWL Articles</td>
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<td>Jan. 29</td>
<td>Frameworks: Legal, Ethical, and National Palliative Care Model</td>
<td>Chapter 14 &amp; OWL Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>Foundational Concepts of Palliative Care</td>
<td>OWL Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td><strong>MID-TERM EXAM:</strong> covers chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 14, and all other required readings and lecture material from the first five weeks.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>Reading Week: February 15-19</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Application of CHPCA Model to Guide Care</td>
<td>Chapter 7 &amp; OWL Articles</td>
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<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td>Settings of Care: Hospital, Community, and Long Term Care</td>
<td>Chapter 11 &amp; OWL Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td>Spiritual Care and Meaning Making</td>
<td>Chapter 13 &amp; OWL Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 18</td>
<td>Special Topics: Palliative Sedation, Suicide, and Occupational Health Risks</td>
<td>Chapter 9 &amp; OWL Articles</td>
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<td>Mar. 25</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>Loss, Grief, and Bereavement</td>
<td>Chapters 5, 10 &amp; 12 + OWL Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Apr. 6</td>
<td>How to Help</td>
<td>Chapters 12 &amp; 15 + OWL Articles</td>
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**Note:** This last lecture takes place during the last Tutorial session due to the Good Friday Holiday. It is also the last official day of classes before Final Exams.

**FINAL EXAMINATION:** Date to be determined by the Registrar’s Office. Covers chapters 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and all other required readings & lecture material presented post Mid-Term Exam/Reading Week.

### Tutorial Details:

Tutorials will consist of a series of ten **guest speakers** from various professions in palliative care settings and areas concerned with the ethical, legal, and personal issues surrounding death, dying, and/or bereavement. A schedule of the guest speakers will be handed out during the first tutorial of Jan. 6, 2016 that will serve as an introduction to the course. Students will be tested on the material from these presentations during the second-last tutorial session of March 30th. As well, there will be a written assignment -- outlined below under the heading of Course Evaluation -- based on one of the presentations. **Note:** due to the holiday on Good Friday March 25th, the last
tutorial session on April 6th will be reserved for the final lecture. Students will be given the opportunity to interact with the guest speakers during a question period that will follow their presentations. As well, we will have time allotted to discuss further any issues raised in the tutorials in the lectures that follow during that particular week.

**Course Evaluation**

**Evaluation Summary:** Lecture material (60%); Tutorial material (40%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>Fri. Feb. 12, 2016</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TBA (Exam Period: Apr. 9-30)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class Tutorial Exam</td>
<td>Wed. Mar. 30, 2016</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Assignment</td>
<td>Wed. April 6, 2016</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Mid-Term Exam (30%)**

As noted on the Syllabus above, the Mid-Term Exam will take place on Friday **Feb. 12th** during class time and will cover chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 14 and all other required readings and lecture material from the first five weeks of the course. Students will be given the full two hours of class if needed to complete the exam. The exam will consist of short answer questions.

For non-medical absences, a makeup midterm will be provided. This will not be the same as the midterm written during the scheduled exam period and may consist solely of essay questions.

**Final Exam (30%)**

As noted on the Syllabus above, the Final Exam will take place on some date to be determined by the Registrar’s Office during the Final Exam Period of April 9-30 and will cover chapters 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and all other required readings and lecture material presented during the second half of the course. The final exam will be scheduled for three hours and will consist of short answer questions.

**Examination Guidelines:** Available at [www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/administration.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/administration.pdf)

**In-Class Tutorial Exam (25%)**

The Tutorial Exam will take place during the second-last tutorial session of Wednesday **March 30, 2016**. This will be a 50 minute test that will cover all material presented during the presentations of the ten guest speakers and will consist of short answer questions.

For non-medical absences, a makeup Tutorial Exam will be provided. This will not be the same as the Tutorial Exam written during the scheduled exam period and may consist solely of essay questions.

**Tutorial Assignment (15%)**

Since this course explores concepts of palliative care within a health professions context, your assignment is to review a presentation of your choice given by one of the guest speakers – professionals or experts in their field. Pretend that one of your colleagues has asked you to attend a specific talk on their behalf and review it for them. Provide a brief summary (half a page) of the topic presented. Critically examine the information shared and your reflections in light of course material and relevant scholarly literature. Then, reflect on how the information shared resonates or contrasts with your own experiences and cultural/religious framework of death, dying, or
bereavement. Be sure to properly reference any and all sources reviewed. Students may also, at their discretion, choose to select two presentations for comparison/contrast if it is deemed relevant. Papers should be concise and present their argument in 4-5 double spaced pages (1000-1250 words).

Tutorial Assignments will be marked using the following rubric:

**Structure and Style of Submission:** /5
Students are encouraged to seek the support of the writing support centre in producing an academic paper in which ideas flow logically, sources are referenced properly, and grammar is used skillfully. Students are asked to use double spaced 12-point Times New Roman font with 1.5-inch margins. Sources should be cited using APA referencing according to the American Psychological Association's Publication Manual (6th Edition).

**Appropriate use of Course Materials AND Scholarly Literature:** /5
Students will be graded on their ability to integrate both course material and other scholarly literature into their reflective papers. While other material (such as websites, popular media, and classroom discussion) may be referenced in this assignment, students should aim to cite at least three relevant peer-reviewed sources.

**Critical Reflection:** /5
Students will be graded on their ability to present meaningful and critical thought demonstrating an understanding of the discourse surrounding palliative and end of life care as obtained through course lectures, tutorial presentations, classroom discussions, assigned readings, and other scholarly literature. Strong assignments will present compelling arguments about theme(s) raised in the selected presentation(s) that relate to concepts of death, dying, and/or bereavement explored in the course. A good theme to consider: how your insights impact on inter-professional practice in palliative and end of life care.

Late assignments will receive a penalty of 10% per day unless otherwise discussed with your academic counsellor and the instructor prior to the due date for the assignment. Assignments greater than 5 days late will not be graded. The instructor requests that all assignments be submitted electronically through OWL. Papers and grades will be electronically returned to students with the instructor’s comments.

**Review of Grades**
The instructor welcomes discussion regarding assigned grades and will happily meet with students to review graded materials. The instructor asks that students submit requests for such reviews in writing via email. Students should be aware that any review of graded materials may result in an increase or decrease of the assigned grade. Grades will be modified only if the instructor discovers an error in the grading of an assignment or exam. If students remain unsatisfied following a review with the instructor, they may formally appeal the grade through the university’s appeal process. Students wishing to improve their performance in the course following receipt of their midterm grade are encouraged to consult both their instructor and academic counsellor.

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

**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 The University of Western Ontario, 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 [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf).
English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades


Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm.

Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is more than 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed.

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student’s Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222.

Scholastic 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/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Additionally,

1. All required 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 for such checking 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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

2. 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.

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:
1. Student Development Centre -- http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/
2. Student Health -- http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html
3. Registrar's Office -- http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/
4. Ombuds Office -- http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/