

**N2270/NRSG7113**

**NURSING CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS**

**Fall 2025**

Pat Bethune-Davies RN MScN (Fanshawe)

Sarah Benbow RN PhD (Fanshawe)

Emma Butler RN MScN (Fanshawe)

David Reid RN MN (Western)

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## **NURSING CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS**

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### **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 personal and family-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 person and family-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 client-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

## Course Materials:

### Required:

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

### Recommended:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

## Methods of Evaluation

Assignment	Weighting	Due
Reflection #1	10%	September 11 @ 0900
Midterm – MC & Short Answer	30%	Wk 7 during class time
Reflection #2	20%	November 20 @ 2355
Final Exam – Multiple Choice	40%	Exam Period

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

**Due:** September 11 @0900

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.

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

**Date:** Week 7 during regularly scheduled class time

This midterm will include material from weeks 1-6.

If a student is absent for this midterm, 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. The make-up assignment *may* be in a format different from the multiple choice and short answer test. Please note that supporting documentation is required if you seek academic consideration for this assignment.

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

**Due:** November 20 @ 2355

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.

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 12 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.

Students in this course must achieve a minimum of 65% on the final exam (excluding all other course evaluations) to be successful in this course. Even if your final course grade (with all methods of evaluation included) is higher than 65%, but your final exam is less than 65%, you will be unsuccessful in this course.

**Class Schedule**

Week	Date	Topic
1	September 4	Foundations of Ageing
2	September 11	Care Across the Continuum I (Ageing in Place)
3	September 18	Care Across the Continuum II (Types of Care)
4	September 25	Healthy Ageing and Person-centered Care
5	October 2	Physiological Changes in Ageing; Polypharmacy
6	October 9	Geriatric Syndromes I: Frailty and Falls
7	October 16	MIDTERM (2 hours)
8	October 23	Geriatric Syndromes II: Incontinence and Nutrition
9	October 30	Cognitive Health and Ageing
Reading Week (Week 10)		
11	November 13	Mental Health of Older Adults
12	November 20	Ethical and Legal Issues in Caring for Older Adults; End of Life Care
13	November 27	Opportunities for Care of the Older Adult

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

## **Undergraduate Program Site**

All students are required to visit the Undergraduate Program Site and be familiar with its contents. The Undergraduate Program Manual and full list of School of Nursing Policies can be accessed at: [Program Manual 2024-2025 - Collaborative Nursing Program Homeroom \(fanshaweonline.ca\)](https://fanshaweonline.ca/ProgramManual2024-2025-CollaborativeNursingProgramHomeroom)

## **Policies**

All policies related to assignments are in the Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual on the [Undergraduate Student Information site](https://fanshaweonline.ca/UndergraduateStudentInformationSite) (Western) and on [Table of Contents - Collaborative Nursing Program Homeroom \(fanshaweonline.ca\)](https://fanshaweonline.ca/TableOfContents-CollaborativeNursingProgramHomeroom) 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 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (2020). All other types of writing will follow APA (7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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:

Fanshawe (select Fanshawe Library Learning Commons):

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

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

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 <http://www.fanshawec.ca/appeals>)

### **Correspondence Statement**

To maintain the confidentiality of correspondence between students and course professor, all electronic correspondence must take place with Western email (@uwo.ca) or on Fanshawe online (FOL). DO NOT send emails through the regular email system. You are expected to check the course site regularly for any messages/announcements posted by the course professors.

### **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 [Program Manual 2024-2025 - Collaborative Nursing Program Homeroom \(fanshaweonline.ca\)](#)

### **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 College will follow. For more information, visit [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. [Program Manual 2024-2025 - Collaborative Nursing Program Homeroom \(fanshawonline.ca\)](#)

### **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 (Fanshawe - [A136 - Academic Integrity.pdf \(fanshawec.ca\)](#)).

### **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 or review [A101 - Accommodation of Applicants and Students with Disabilities.pdf \(fanshawec.ca\)](#)

### **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 (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.**

#### **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.

### **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.

## **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/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

## **Support Services**

There are various support services around campus, and these include, but are not limited to:

- Accessibility Services: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/students/support/accessibility>
- Academic Support: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/students/support/academic-support>
- Physical Health, Wellness Education and Mental Health: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/students/support/health-wellness>
- Indigenous Student Support: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/students/support/indigenous-learning>
- Registrar's Office: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/admission-finance/registrar-office>

## **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.