Course Description

Aging Globally: Lessons from Scandinavia is an international course that will introduce students to healthcare systems, public health policies and practices, care delivery in homecare, hospitals and long-term care, and aging research in three Scandinavian countries Denmark, Norway and Sweden. This year the course will be delivered online in collaboration with our international partners. The objective of the course is to explore and identify what we can learn from arguably the best healthcare systems in the world when it comes to disease prevention, management of chronic disease and health-related quality of late life?

Together with students from interdisciplinary programs at the OsloMet University in Oslo and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm we will work on a case study. Also, we will explore the Nordic approach to management of health of older adults, discover the latest research in aging, learn about health policies in the National Board of Health and Welfare, and virtually meet researchers, policy makers, staff and management in diverse healthcare settings and community organizations.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Critically examine complex factors that shape health and aging globally and differentiate between Scandinavian and Canadian approaches to health and aging.
- Reflect on how their international experience of diverse perspectives, paradigms and intercultural approaches has influenced their worldview on aging and provision of health care.
- Apply cross-cultural competencies and become global-ready graduates capable of knowledge transfer between diverse communities around the world.
- Advocate for the improvement of health-related quality of life for older adults worldwide.
Course Instructor: Aleksandra Zecevic, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, School of Health Studies, HSB 336, 519-661-2111 x80455, azecevi2@uwo.ca
Office Hours: By appointment. Professor will be available every week during tutorial hours. In all communication with professor or Leadership team please indicate “HS3721” in subject line.

TA - TBD

Course Format
The course is offered as a third-year elective, in winter term (January-April), and is weighted as 0.5 FCE. For the first time in 2020-21, the course is offered online as a blend of synchronous and asynchronous activities. Students and the professor will meet online weekly for mandatory lectures where students, professors from partner universities and guest lecturers will present on a variety of topics. Students will conduct two small teams presentations (partner organizations and case study findings), and create cultural competencies videos, all of which will be graded. Tutorials will take place weekly between mid-January and mid-March. Western students will work in multinational, trans-Atlantic interdisciplinary teams with students from OsloMet (Norway) and Karolinska Institute (Sweden) on a Case Study. You will be asked by the course instructor to provide a consent for future use of your contributions to the course, such as creative products, reflections, photographs, videos, reports, ePortfolios and presentations. Your contributions will be used with utmost respect, care and recognition.

Lecture: Wednesday 8:30-10:30 am  Tutorials: Tuesday 8:30-9:30 am

Required Readings
All required readings will be posted on OWL. Early starters are welcome to complete the required book during the summer:

Michael Booth (2016). The almost nearly perfect people: Behind the myth of the Scandinavian utopia. (consider trying audiobook if you have never experienced it) https://www.amazon.ca/Almost-Nearly-Perfect-People-Scandinavian/dp/1250081564/ref=cm_cr_arp_d_product_top?ie=UTF8

Course Evaluation
Partner organizations team presentation 15%
Cultural competencies team video 15%
Reflections (3) 15%
Engagement (attendance, teamwork, discussions, participation) 15%
Case study: “elevator speech”, infographics, 3-page summary 20%
ePortfolio 20%
Other Important Information

- **Plagiarism** – Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see: Academic Policies).
- **Late assignments** – late submissions will NOT be accepted. A grade of zero will be assigned to any assignment submitted after the deadline. There will be no make-up assignments. It is your responsibility to attend all lectures and work effectively with your teams. Extenuating circumstances may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please take up such issues with the professor. An official academic approval from your academic advisor is required for all accommodations.
- **Grading and Appeals** – All grades are sent to the School Director for approval. Faculty cannot release final grades until they have been reviewed by the Director.
- **Re-grading policy** – Disputes regarding grades should be taken up with the professor. If an assignment is to be re-graded the professor reserves the right to re-grade the entire body of work which might result in points lost.
- **Privacy** – SHS policy does not permit student grades to be e-mailed or discussed over the phone.

Statements Required by the School of Health Studies

Statement on 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.

Statement on using plagiarism checking software:

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](http://www.turnitin.com)).

Statement 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.

Statement on academic consideration:

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury. Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfill their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

(i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;

(ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or

(iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.

Students seeking academic consideration:
• Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;

• Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;

• **Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;

• Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

a. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;

b. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;

c. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;

d. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;

e. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations (i.e., “bellringers”);

f. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;

g. Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed

**Statement on attendance:**

In the School of Health Studies, each course instructor sets specific expectations for attendance and participation that are specific to the course, teaching objectives, and learning outcomes.

Regular attendance is expected and essential for all courses, but particularly those that include participation grades in their evaluation schemes. Participation means not only attendance, but active engagement in the class, including (for example) contribution to small and large group discussions, a demonstrated effort to prepare for class by completing assigned readings before class, and following the instructor's guidelines for use of electronic devices during class time. Students who miss classes, or parts of classes, are responsible for the material they have missed. Instructors are not obliged to review the contents of missed lectures.

Persistent absenteeism may have serious repercussions, and may result in you failing this course. In this course, the equivalent of 3 weeks of unexcused absences, per term, will be considered to be persistent absenteeism. Persistent absenteeism will result in you being contacted by the instructor, who may request a meeting. Continued absence after this point will be reported to the Undergraduate Chair, and may result in debarment from writing the final examination, and/or submitting the final course paper. In such a case, you would receive a grade of zero on the evaluations from which you were debarred.

**Statement on use of recording devices and course content**
Course instructors own and retain the intellectual property rights of their teaching materials. These rights extend to materials used in online settings and digital learning management systems like OWL, Zoom, and TopHat. Students do not have my permission to make audio or video recordings of lectures, take pictures of lecture material, or distribute any course content for nefarious purposes (e.g., for sale or to cheat on exams). It is the decision of the instructor as to how and when teaching materials can be shared or used. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of pre-recorded lectures or other course materials. Nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.**

**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:


**Support services:**

There are various support services that include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- [http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/)

**Statement on health and wellness:**

As part of a successful undergraduate experience at Western, we encourage you to make health and wellness a priority. Western provides several online health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and wellness while pursuing your degree. Further information regarding the services available to students may be found at [http://www.health.uwo.ca/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/). For information regarding emotional or mental distress, please visit Western Psychological Services ([https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html)). To learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: [https://www.uwo.ca/health/wec/education/learning.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/wec/education/learning.html). Students are also encouraged to access local health and wellness resources within their home communities.

The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Superior work that is clearly above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Competent work, meeting requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>Fair work, minimally acceptable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 74-78%. In the event that the course average falls outside this range, a constant may be added (or subtracted) from each student’s grade, to bring the class average in line with school policy.