



Human Biology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

HMB395Y: Living with Dementia: Innovations in Dementia Care and the Determinants of Well-being

Course Syllabus Summary Summer 2026

Course Coordinator: Dr. Franco Taverna, Human Biology, franco.taverna@utoronto.ca

Course Calendar

Week	Lecture Topic	Lecturer
Module 1	Introduction to Dementia, Neurobiology and Sociology What is Dementia? The Intersection of aging and dementia, World Health Organization (WHO) Decade of Health Aging and WHO Approach to Dementia; The Neurobiology of Dementia, Pathology and Cognition, Modifiable Risk Factors. Mental Health and Dementia: Social Isolation and Loneliness and the impact on Brain Health Promotion and Social Models of Care for Persons Living with Dementia: Intergenerational Social Connection and Nature as Medicine for Cognitive Outcomes	Franco Taverna
Field Experiences	Op Aarde (Dementia Care Farm) The Old School model	
Module 2	Innovative Care Models and Therapeutic Living Environments Ecological Determinants of Health and Well-being for Persons Living with Dementia Balancing Medical and Social Models of Care for Persons Living with Dementia Dementia Friendly Long Term care: Optimizing Quality of Life	Franco Taverna
Field Experiences	De Hogewyk “Dementia Village”	
Module 3	The Determinants of Well-being: Designing for Connection and Engagement A Focus on “Personhood”: Community Integration and Social Inclusion for Persons Living with Dementia	Franco Taverna and Raza Mirza



	The Role and Experiences of Caregivers: From Community to Long-Term Care, Formal and Informal Supports Across Settings Political Determinants of Well-being: Policy, advocacy and Evaluation	
Field Trip 3	Humanitas Deventer (intergenerational living) De Zandstroom Dementia meeting centre (Zandvoort)	
Module 4	Towards 2050: Dementia Friendly Societies and Communities Living and Dying with Dementia Reimagined: Emphasizing Human Rights, Social Citizenship and Recognizing Agency. A Focus on: Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities and End-of-Life Care for Persons Living with Dementia Dementia Friendly Cities and services and the Commercial Determinants of Health and Well-being: A Focus on Travelling with Dementia – Trains, Planes and Automobiles The Role of Technology and AI to Support Persons Living with Dementia and their Caregivers across the Life Course. A Focus on Care Robots and AI.	Raza Mirza
Field Trip 4	Technology University of Eindhoven (Centre for Dementia and Technology)	

TARGET PROFILE:

1. Older Adult – needing care - (De Hogewyk/Care Farms)
2. Younger older adult – MCI – aging in community and Caregivers (delay onset practices in community)

Course Design Questions

Can we invite older learners to enrol in the course?

Can we introduce a social connection opportunity for students (e.g. befriending intervention with older adults in Canada or The Netherlands)

EVALUATION MATRIX

Assignment and Description	Weight	Date
Reflections	4x5%	Weekly



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A Reflection based assignment to contextualize learning to lived experiences, and articulate broader learning outcomes		
Workshop Presentations – Innovations in Living with Dementia and Dementia Care <i>Presentation of learning concepts based on each week's topics and field trip. Presentations will summarize learning with a critical lens on challenges and opportunities.</i>	4 x 10%	End of each Modules
Group Project – Innovations in Dementia Friendly societies <i>A report proposing innovative design concepts for dementia friendly societies and care concepts in Canada. Includes Human Centred Design Research with older adults with dementia and/or their caregivers</i>	20%	End of course
Participation/Professionalism <i>An evaluation based on your participation in all class activities including.</i>	10%	Ongoing all course
Midterm Assessment <i>Written answer questions, content and skills examined</i>	15%	In class assessment after week 2
Final Assessment <i>Written answer questions. Mostly non-cumulative content, but cumulative skills/experiences examined</i>	15%	In class assessment after week 4