

Sociology of Aging
GRT, SWO, SOC 4393
SPRING 2011
Tuesdays, 5:00 – 7:50 pm

Course Description

In an aging society demographic, economic, and social trends are continuously converging with profound social consequences. This course will examine these trends in aging as they affect the world today and in the future.

Objectives

1. Increase Knowledge Base: After this class you should
 - Be able to dispute common misconceptions about aging;
 - Be able to distinguish between universal and culture-specific aspects of aging;
 - Be able to identify generational changes, shifts and societal impacts;
 - Be aware of world demographic patterns and their impact;
 - Develop a working knowledge of U.S. income security programs and health care policy.
2. Influence Attitudes: Students should
 - Become more sensitive towards issues and concerns of older persons;
 - Understand that aging is a life-long process
3. Skills Development: This course also aims to
 - Enhance critical thinking skills;
 - Strengthen oral communication skills;
 - Strengthen research skills

Text: ***The Sociology of Aging***, 3rd ed., Diane K. Harris, Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.
Reading assignments to be given in class; additional articles and materials related to the week's topic will be distributed in class.

Media: Movies/radio programs, other media, which document issues and concepts relevant to the sociology of aging, will be viewed to supplement the reading material and to enrich the class discussion. (Note: questions derived from this source will be included in the tests).

Guest speakers/trip: Periodically, guest speakers will come to class to enrich class discussion as feasible; we will take one field trip.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

The course will integrate reading assignments, lectures, films, and class discussions with an experiential term project. Students are expected to attend each session and come prepared to discuss the assigned reading(s). Graduate level students are expected to produce a term-paper as well as the term project.

Four quizzes and final exam (a combination of objective and short essay), 2 outside class assignments, as well as a term-project (with a **class presentation**) are required.

Grading:

A. Project 1 (Japan)	50 pts
B. Project 2 (Senior Dance)	50 pts
C. Quizzes 1-5 (100 points each)	500 pts
D. Participation	50 pts
E. Attendance	50 pts
F. Term Project & Presentation	300 pts

Total: 1000 pts

Grading Scale:

Grades are earned according to following scale:

910 – 1000 = A	710 – 760 = C
870 – 900 = B+	600 – 700 = D
810 – 860 = B	
770 – 800 = C+	

Policies

Office Hours:

Although I work off campus, I want to visit with each of you and support your needs as they come up. Do not hesitate to send me an email or call me to set up a conference before or after class.

Student Responsibilities:

- 1) Attend class regularly. If you can't be in class, please email me about this so that I can forward any assignments that might have been given out in class.
- 2) Be on time. Class starts promptly.
- 3) Ask questions and actively participate in class.
- 4) Take quizzes as scheduled.
- 5) Turn in assignments ON time.
- 6) Participate in off campus learning experiences.
- 7) Turn **off** cell phones and do not text message. Phones will be taken up.
- 8) Laptops should only be used for note taking; I will have you turn them off if you abuse this privilege.

Dishonorable Conduct:

Like you, it is important to me to give credit where credit is due. Therefore, I regard plagiarism as a serious breach of the ethical contract we all have with one another. I refer such cases to the Honor Council.

Let me remind you that plagiarism is any instance in which you or I present the work of someone else as your or my own work. The most common instance of plagiarism is half-accidental: It is the use of unacknowledged quotations. If you have any question as to how to cite a given author, please let me know and we will work together to figure it out. Please understand that this applies to websites as well as print materials and speeches.

Late Assignments:

Any material with a date is due according to the times and dates posted on the syllabus or sign up sheet. If we change something in class, I will try and change the information on the copy that is on the Website. If you are struggling with an assignment, talk to me. Assignments are due when I arrive in class or at the hour of the due date. If I have not heard from you and it is not in my possession, then 10 points will be taken off for materials that are late. Please understand that **poor planning does not constitute an emergency.**

Learning Accommodation:

“No otherwise qualified person with a disability in the United States shall, solely by the reason of disability, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). Baylor University complies with all applicable federal and state non-discrimination law and does not engage in unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

BSW

Portfolio Development

All **BSW students** will prepare a portfolio during their final semester in the program. The portfolio will include samples of coursework demonstrating social work competence. Please keep your papers, presentations, and projects from this course for possible inclusion in your portfolio. You will want to keep multiple copies on disk, hard drive, and/or hard copy to avoid losing them before your capstone seminar and orals.

Course Outline

This course outline is our tentative schedule. Topical material is subject to change via in-class announcements by the instructor. Students are responsible for keeping themselves informed of any changes and for obtaining notes and handouts from any class they were unable to attend. Since we meet only once a week, attendance is extremely important. If you have to miss a class, be sure to inform the instructor and explain the reason for your absence. **Unexcused absences and lack of preparation for class will affect your final grade.**

Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments (subject to revision)

- Jan 11 Understanding Aging: Overview/Glossary
Era of Global Aging
- Review of Syllabus
 - Review of assignments
- Jan 18 [Class will begin at 5:15 pm](#)
Studying Aging: Analytical Frames of Reference
Life Course Perspective
Migration
- Chapters 1,2
- Jan 25 Morbidity & Disability
Chapter 3, 4, 5
Test I Study Guide
- Dementia
 - Parkinsons
 - Other Diseases
- Feb 1 **Test I**
Economics & Aging
Income, Poverty, Housing
- Chapter 6,15
- Feb 8 Cultural Construction of Generations
- Guest
- Feb 15 [Class will begin at 5:15 pm](#)
Quality of Life/Adaptation
Successful Aging
- Chapter 13
- Feb 22 Field Trip
Activities
Test II Study Guide
- **Project 1 assignment**
- Mar 1 **Test II**
Project 1 due
- Mar 8 NO CLASS -- Spring Break Week**
- Mar 15 [Class will begin at 5:15 pm](#)
Work/Retirement
Race/Ethnicity/Aging

	Family & Friends Assignment of Project Subjects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Home Assignment
Mar 22	Intergenerational Ties Social Relationships/Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6, 9 Marriage in Later Life -Guests Caregiving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10
Mar 29	Financing Health Care Social Security Religion/Spirituality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 7, 8, 11
Apr 5	Test III Technological Change/Fountain of Youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15
Apr 12	Aging & the Law Justice Guardianship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12 Film
Apr 19	New Politics of Aging Boomers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 The Future of Aging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2, 11
Apr 26	Term Project Presentations
May 3	Study Day
May 10	FINAL