

University of Texas at El Paso BSW Program
SOWK 3370 - Gerontology

Instructor: Michelle Childers

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Term: Summer II

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Meeting Time: 9:00-12:20pm

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INTRODUCTION TO GERONTOLOGY

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad overview of the biological, psychological, social and environmental changes that occur in the lives of people as they age. It explores the evolving and increasing needs of older people among the many diverse groups within the demographic picture as well as medical, social and environmental responses to enhance the quality and longevity of life. In addressing the social environment and the changing composition of our society, we will study the effect of public perceptions of the aged with respect to the development of public policies.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of participation in this course, students will be expected to have a working understanding of:

1. the history of human aging and the explosion of demographics in the twentieth century leading to demands for positive and concrete governmental intervention in the provision of social, protective and health services to the aged,
2. the process and consequences of physical, mental and psychological aging on older people, their families and their environments,
3. those humane and affordable services presently available to support the vulnerable elderly to continue to live safely and in comfort within their communities as long as possible and providing support in well- regulated institutions.
4. and the "Baby Boomers"

III. TEACHING METHODS

The class will have lectures, visiting lecturers with specialized knowledge, individual reports, class discussion, and volunteer hours in the community where the aged participate.

IV. REQUIRED TEXT

Required text

Adult Development and Aging

by [John C. Cavanaugh](#) (Author), [Fredda Blanchard-Fields](#) (Author)

- **Publisher:** Wadsworth Publishing; 5 edition (July 15, 2005)
- **ISBN-10:** 0534520669
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0534520663

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Prompt attendance and active participation in class presentations and discussions will be considered in preparation of the final grade. Students who need to be absent from class should arrange for another student to take class notes and procure extra handouts, if any, in order to be prepared for the next class.
2. Readings: Students are required to read the assigned text **prior** to each class.
3. Each student will select a topic (no duplications) for further research. Each student will prepare an oral report (maybe powerpoint), with a written outline, which will be submitted for grade calculation. Class discussion will follow each report. Grading will take into account coverage of the subject, clear evidence of additional research and competent delivery and answering of questions...
4. Each student will **complete 20 hours of volunteer time** in an agency or setting that reaches out to the elderly.
4. Each student will write a three (3) page typed paper over your topic and volunteer work. The paper is short as you need to learn to convey the information to a reader who does not know about your subject in a concise and to the point way. This paper will serve as the Final Exam. Essays must be typed in 12-point font, Times Roman, 1" margins. Errors in spelling, grammar and sentence structure will reduce grade points. APA style will be followed. Students are advised to proof very carefully. Essays must be turned in prior to the opening of the class period. Late essays without permission will be penalized one grade point after any other reductions. Do not submit by email.
Essays are intended to be abstracts of the material covered in this class, including important supporting details (dates or demographics) as space permits. Essay outlines are not required, but are advisable and may be submitted for comment by the instructor.
5. No Plagiarism. It is possible to fail this course if you plagiarize. Integrity in student preparation and submission of work is expected. Make sure that your essays, notes and outlines are uniquely and verifiably your own. No collaboration or sharing on essay work is permissible.
6. There are no pre- or co-requisites for this course.

VI. STANDARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO:

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance and the Drop Deadline: Students who miss more than three classes risk being withdrawn from class with a grade of W if absences occur prior to the first eight weeks or an F if the total of class sessions missed exceeds three after the first four weeks of the course. Students wishing to drop a course and receive a grade of W must do so prior to the Drop Deadline of March 18. Dropping a course after that time will result in an automatic grade of F.

Confidentiality: Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and fellow students is considered to be covered by the NASW Code of Ethics regarding the sharing of information for supervisory purposes. Agencies are aware that information is shared in class for this purpose. However, discussion outside of class with individuals not in this class or with other class members in settings where you cannot assure that no one else may overhear the conversation is considered a breach of confidentiality and will result in recommendation against remaining in the social work program.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Due to their disruptive nature and in respect for your fellow students please set your cell phones and pagers on vibrate. If it is necessary to take an emergency phone call, please leave the class room. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off during quizzes and exams.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The University of Texas at El Paso is committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act- (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

UTEP is dedicated to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities so they have equal access and opportunity to complete their education. University policy states that the student is responsible for informing the Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) of their disability, and for requesting accommodations within two weeks of the start of each semester. The DSSO determines whether students need accommodation, and assists the instructor in providing accommodation.

If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations, you should contact The Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148. You can also email the office at dss@utep.edu or go by room 106, Union Building East. For additional information, visit the DSSO Website at www.utep.edu/dsso/.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

It is the philosophy of the University of Texas at El Paso that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures.

Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Safety

As part of professional social work education students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practice related to agency and/or community safety. Students should also notify instructors regarding any safety concerns.

VII. GRADING CRITERIA:

Course Requirements:

Attendance 10 %

Topic reports 15 %

Volunteer Hours (20) 45 %

Essay about your topic and volunteer work 30 %

Total 100 %

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS (subject to revision)

DATE COURSE OUTLINE

Recommended Readings:

Ginsberg, Nackerud, Larrison, (2004), *Human Biology for Social Workers*. Pearson, Allyn & Bacon

Hooyman, Nancy R. & Kiyak, H. Asuman, (2002), *Social Gerontology* Boston, Allyn & Bacon

Kart, Gary S. & Kinney, Jenifer M. (2001) *The Realities of Aging*, 6th Ed. Boston, Allyn & Bacon

Lussstrader, Wendy & Nancy R. Hooyman (1994) *Taking Care of Aging Family Members*, New York The Free Press

Markson, Elizabeth W. (2003) *Social Gerontology Today Los Angeles*, CA Roxbury

McInnis-Dittrich, Kathleen. (2001) *Social Work with Elders* Boston. Allyn & Bacon

Publishing Company

Morris, Virginia, (1996) *How to Care for Aging Parents* New York Workman Publishing

Whiteman, Victor L., *Social Security* (2001) Boston Allyn & Bacon

Online Policy Sites

For a list of links to many policy-related sites: www.newyorkwired.com/sspolicy.htm

AARP: aarp.org

Administration on Aging: aoa.dhhs.gov

Agency for Health Care Research and Quality: ahrq.gov

Alzheimer's Association: alz.org

US Census Bureau: census.gov

Centers for Disease Control: cdc.gov

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: cms.hhs.gov

Commonwealth Fund (good resource for health care policies): commonwealthfund.org

Department of Health and Human Services: hhs.gov

Indian Health Services: ihs.gov

Executive Office of the President: whitehouse.gov

Family Caregiving Alliance: caregiving.org

Families USA (The Voice of Health Care Consumers): [familiesusa](http://familiesusa.org)

Food and Drug Administration: fda.gov

Gerontological Society of America: geron.org

Health Resources and Services Administration: hrsa.gov

Office of National Drug Control Policy: (1)whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/

(2)whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/policy/papers

Hospice Foundation of America: hospicefoundation.org

Legislation (Current bills): <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Legislation (previous laws): <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/bdquery.html>

Legislation(copies of historical laws): <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/const/mdbquery.html>

Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network: asaging.org/Networks/lgain/index.htm

Mental Health and Aging: mhaging.org

National Academy on an Aging Society: agingsociety.org/agingsociety

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill: nami.org

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors: nashpd.org

National Center for Health Statistics: cdc.gov/nchs/dataawh/nchsdefs/nchs.htm

National Council on Aging: ncoa.org

National Institutes of Health: nih.gov

National Institute of Drug Abuse: nida.nih.gov/NIDAhome1.html

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: niaaa.nih.gov/

National Institute of Mental Health: nimh.nih.gov/home.cfm

National Policy & Resource Center on Nutrition & Aging: fiu.edu/~nutrelder/

Office of Managed Care: mentalhealth.org/cmhs/managedcare

President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health: mentalhealthcommission.gov/

Roper Center for Public Opinion Research: ropercenter.uconn.edu

US Senate Special Committee on Aging: senate.gov/%7Eaging
Social Security Administration: ssa.gov
Social Security Network (Century Foundation): socsec.org
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) information: aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda/p96006.htm
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: samhsa.gov
Texas Department of Aging: tdoa.state.tx.us
Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation: tmhmr.state.tx.us
Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse: tcada.state.tx.us
Texas Health and Human Services Commission: hhsc.state.tx.us
Texas Department of Health: tdh.state.tx.us