

INTRODUCTION TO AGING AND SOCIETY

June 24th, 2019 - August 9th

Summer 2019

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Lecture: Tuesday's and Thursday's
6:00pm - 9:00pm in L.R. Wilson Hall
1057

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2024
Office Hours: Tuesday's 4:30pm -
5:30pm
Or by appointment

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of gerontology which is the interdisciplinary study of aging. During the term we will examine the social, psychological, physiological, economic, and health aspects of growing old and consider aging in an individual and societal context. We will look at a range of topics including population aging, ageism, family life, health, finances, retirement, work, housing, transportation, leisure, recreation, and end of life issues. The content of the course focuses on older adults and later life and is intended to provide a general background for more specialized studies in aging.

Course Objectives

The central objective of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to think critically about aging in society and to demonstrate this knowledge both descriptively and analytically through tests and assignments.

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- describe myths about aging and identify implications of ageism
- identify and explain theories and concepts key to the study of aging
- describe the ethno-cultural diversity of seniors in Canada
- explain the demographic shifts that have led to population aging
- describe key physical, psychological, and developmental changes that occur with age
- discuss institutional changes in response to population aging
- identify and explain challenges facing older people and their caregivers in later life
- advance writing, critical thinking, and research skills

Required Materials (Available at Campus Store):

- *Novak, M. and Campbell, L. and Herbert C. Northcott (2017). Aging & Society: A Canadian Perspective (8th edition). Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd.*

Class Format

Lectures will reinforce course readings, and involve power-point slides, in-class exercises, films, media clips, and occasional guest speakers. Power-point presentations, intended to facilitate note taking, will be posted on Avenue to Learn immediately prior to the scheduled lecture. It is important to keep up with the assigned readings and to attend lectures to succeed in this course. Lectures will augment the required reading but will not cover all content presented in the text (if you read this far, super proud, send me your favorite meme/gif/clip to let me know). Required

reading should be completed prior to class and students should be prepared to actively participate in class.

Course Evaluation - Overview

1. In-class Group Participation - 10%, on-going
2. Midterm Exam - 25%, July 16th
3. Term Assignment - 30%, due on July 30th
4. Final Exam - 35%, August 8th

Midterm Exam (25%) July 16th, 2019

There will be a midterm exam written in class on July 16th, 2019. This exam will be based on material from the text, lectures, and any other class materials (i.e. films, guest speakers, etc.). The exam is worth 25% of your final grade and will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

Final Exam (35%) August 8th, 2019

There will also be a final exam. The final exam is cumulative which means that you will be tested on all course content (material covered before and after the mid-term). The final exam is worth 35% of your final grade and will consist of 80 multiple choice questions.

- Please note that to pass this course students must complete the term assignment, the midterm exam, and the final exam.
- Further details on examinations will be reviewed in class.

1. Creative Group Project worth (30%) due July 30th

Students will have the option of completing a group creative term project (worth 30%) that assesses an aging topic covered within one of the weekly course-based themes. We will discuss this in class and sign up for group projects will take place soon after. Creative projects will be due in the Avenue Drop box on July 30th 2019 and presentations (not necessary if we don't want to) will take place on August 1st 2019. More detailed instructions and a grading scheme will be reviewed in class and posted on Avenue. Choose this option and your group members carefully; students will not be permitted to change options after they have signed up.

OR

2. Term Writing Assignment worth (30%) due July 30th

Late submissions will not be accepted after August 6th, 2019

This assignment gives you the opportunity to individually explore a focused aging issue (for example, financial abuse of the elderly in nursing homes, older adults and use of the internet, the ethical implications of physician assisted death in Canada) and to share your insights in writing. Topics must be approved by the instructor (in person

not via email) by July 16th. Students are required to write a 6-page essay that links theory, relevant findings from required course material, and a minimum of 4 additional scholarly research articles to your chosen topic. The additional scholarly articles must be located in a peer reviewed social science journal (like The Canadian Journal on Aging) published after 2008. Articles from popular periodicals (magazines, newspapers or Internet sites, etc.) or science journals will not be accepted. Information from other academic sources (example, scholarly books or book chapters) is permissible but these cannot be used in lieu of the required article sources. Do NOT use book reviews or literature review articles, conference papers or theses. Do NOT CITE LECTURES. It is imperative to properly cite supporting scholarly sources (refer to references on power point slides)

The writing assignment must be submitted electronically in a WORD document to the appropriate Avenue to Learn drop box no later than 11:59pm on July 30th; hardcopies or emailed copies will not be accepted. Assignments must be properly formatted using the [APA Style Guide](#). The assignment should have a title page, all pages should be numbered and have 1 inch margins on all four sides. All text should be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman Font. Carefully follow the manuscript formatting with respect to in-text citation references, reference page formatting, and manuscript writing style. See: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/guides/apa-style-guide>.

More detailed instructions on the assignment and a grading rubric will be posted on Avenue and reviewed in class.

In Class Participation (10%) (ongoing)

Class attendance is mandatory. During the term students will be expected to actively participate in class. Students will be evaluated on their attentiveness in lecture and participation in class activities that include reflective writing, group exercises, and class discussions. It is important to bring your laptop as well as paper and a pen to each class. **No accommodation will be provided for missed in-class participation- (exceptions may potentially include approved [SAS accommodations](#) and [religious holiday accommodations](#)).**

Participation grades will be based on contribution to in-class discussions and activities, in class attentiveness, and thoughtful completion and sharing of in-class assignments.

- Class discussion based on weekly readings will be a routine component of the course. Full attendance (attending the entire class) and active participation is required. It is therefore important that all students, complete scheduled readings prior to class, attend all classes, be attentive in lecture and participate enthusiastically in discussion.

- Each week you will be provided with the opportunity to participate in collaborative learning with your peers. Working in groups of 4-5, students will be expected to engage in discussion about the course readings and provide written responses to questions/exercises posed by the instructor. The purpose of the group work is to provide you with an opportunity to actively reflect on and discuss course material, enhance your ability to critically reflect on age related issues and to work collaboratively with group members in synthesizing responses in oral and written formats.
- In a 'word document' provide a (double spaced 300-500 words) written response to the assigned question/exercise. Provide a title page that has the name of each group member who participated in the activity, the name of the activity and the date. Write the response in an essay style; that is, using proper grammar, paragraph, and sentence structure. **Submit your in-class group response to the Avenue drop box no later than 11:59 pm on the date that it is due.** Submissions will be assessed for logical, thoughtful reflection, completeness, and writing mechanics. Completed assignments will result in the accumulation of group participation credits.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 June 25th and June 27th

June 25th - Introduction to the Course

Readings: N/A

Notes: *** Read Course Outline ** (please ☺)

June 27th - Social Representations of Aging and Demographics of Aging

Readings: Chapter 1, 3

Week 2 July 2nd and July 4th

July 2nd - Theories and Methods and Cultural Diversity

Readings: Chapter 2, 4

Notes: Tentative Guest Speaker: Rachel Weldrick

July 4th - Recreation and Leisure

Readings: Chapter 10

Notes: Tentative Guest Speaker: Kelsey Harvey and Tentative Documentary

Week 3 July 9th and July 11th

July 9th - The Aging Mind

Readings: Chapter 6

Notes: Tentative Film - Personhood

July 11th - The Aging Body

Readings: Chapter 5

Notes: Midterm Review and Creative Group Project Progress Meeting

Week 4 July 16th and July 18th

July 16th - Midterm exam

Readings: Text chapters 1-6 & 10 plus in-class material

Notes: In class exam

July 18th - Formal Care

Readings: Chapter 7

Notes: Tentative Guest Speaker and Term Writing Assignment Progress Meeting

Week 5 July 23rd and July 25th

July 23rd - Informal Care

Readings: Chapters 12,13

July 25th - Death, Dying and Bereavement

Readings: Chapter 14

Notes: Tentative Guest Speaker End of Life Care'

Week 6 July 30th and August 1st

July 30th - Later Life Income

Readings: Chapter 8

Notes: ***Creative Group Project OR Term writing Reports DUE- on Avenue Drop box by 11:59 pm July 30th

August 1st - Retirement and Work.

Readings: Chapter 9

Notes: Tentative Creative Group Project Presentations

Week 7 August 6th and August 8th

August 6th - Housing and Transportation

Readings: Chapter 11

Notes: Tentative: Seniors Panel Discussion

And Review for Final Exam

August 8th - Final Exam

Readings: N/A

Notes: All course content (material covered before and after the mid-term).

Course Policies

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Email

Send all emails to my McMaster email account: hatzifis@mcmaster.ca. Please consider email equivalent to any other form of written communication. Students who write to their instructors are expected to follow rules of spelling, grammar and punctuation. In addition, please include a proper greeting, such as "Dear Stephanie or Ms. Hatzifilalithis," and not "Hey Fam". Add a closing that includes your full name, such as "Sincerely, John Smith." Email failing to meet these standards may be returned unanswered. Emails that require a very short reply will be answered within 4 working days (I will generally not respond to emails over the weekend). Email questions requiring a more detailed response will only be answered - in person - during office hours or by appointment.

Use of Mobile Devices

Honestly, I get it, texting or snapping or scrolling might be more interesting than me speaking but think of it this way. The less time you spend on your phone in class, the less time you will need to study for exams, the less time you study for exams, the more time you can spend living your best life ([UNAGI](#)). Mobile devices, specifically laptops and tablets, may be used in this course for educational purposes only (i.e., learning directed related to the course). At times I may direct you to use your mobile device to complete an activity or task, other times I may ask you to close your laptop or turn off your tablet to focus your attention on other course related tasks. Off-task use (e.g., Facebook, texting, other) will result in your device being confiscated for the class and/or being asked to leave the classroom for all or part of the class.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Without approved excuses, you must make arrangements directly with me to hand in the assignment. Assignments will be marked down 5% if turned in late on the day it is due, and an additional 5 percentage points for each day it is late after that; this includes weekend days and holidays. If an assignment is due at the start of a class, it will be considered one day late any time after the end of class that day

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

All reasons for illness, injury and family emergency must be addressed through the office of the Associate Dean of Social Sciences who will notify the Professor of your absence. The policy contains the following requirements:

1. If you are seeking relief for missed academic work because of an absence lasting up to 3 days in duration, you must use the McMaster Student Absence Form. The course work you have missed must be worth 24% or less of your grade.
2. You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your Instructor immediately (NORMALLY WITHIN TWO WORKING DAYS) regarding the nature of the accommodation.
3. If you are absent for reasons other than medical reasons, for more than 3 days, or exceed 1 request per term you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation. This form should be filled out immediately when you are about to return to class after your absence. Additional requests for relief of academic missed work must be reported to your Faculty's Associate Dean's Office (Be prepared to submit appropriate documentation. Relief for missed academic work is not guaranteed).

MSAF is now available in MOSAIC Student Center (in the drop down menu under Academics)

4. You should expect to have academic commitments Monday through Saturday but not on Sunday or statutory holidays. If you require an accommodation to meet a religious obligation or to celebrate an important religious holiday, you may use the McMaster Student Absence Form or contact your Faculty's Associate Dean's Office.
5. In deciding whether or not to grant relief for missed work, factors such as the following may be taken into account: the timing in relation to the due date of the missed work and the degree of the student's incapacitation.
6. You are responsible to contact your Professor(s) promptly to discuss the appropriate relief.
7. It is the prerogative of the Professor of the course to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work in his/her course.
See the Faculty of Social Sciences web page on [Student Absence Information](http://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/absence-form)
<http://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/absence-form>

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Course information will be posted here throughout the term. Please check this site often to keep informed of assignment instructions, links to course resources, important announcements, and interim grades. It is the responsibility of all students to be aware of all information posted on Avenue to Learn.

Step 1: Make sure you are in the Avenue to Learn system.

If you officially registered for the course, you were automatically enrolled in the Avenue To Learn system. Go directly to step 2. Students who registered late for this course need to be added to the Avenue to Learn database before they can perform the next step. The best way to do this is to make sure that you are officially registered for this course.

Step 2: Logon to Avenue to learn. Go to <http://Avenue.mcmaster.ca/>

All the information you need for logging on to the site, for configuring your web browser, and for adding this course to your account are available here.

Step 3: Support

If you are interested in viewing the support for Avenue to Learn, including quick help guides and other resources please visit <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/help/>

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Also, cheating is not cool brah.

Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity), located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. [Student Accessibility Services](#) can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

I am committed to making appropriate accommodations for students' observance of religious holidays. Please contact me as early in the term as possible to make individual arrangements.

I am also committed to working with students with disabilities to make individualized accommodations according to your specific needs. All such arrangements must be made through Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Please drop by my office at the beginning of the term to review individual arrangements. All such arrangements will remain confidential.

Student Accessibility Services: For information about academic support services, contact SAS at MUSC B107 (ext. 28652) or <http://sas.mcmaster.ca>.

If you require this course outline in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the Department of Health, Aging & Society (ext. 27227 | e-mail: hasdept@mcmaster.ca).

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at their discretion.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.