

HLTHAGE 1BB3 – INTRODUCTION TO AGING AND SOCIETY

Fall 2020

September 8th to December 9th, 2020

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne LeBlanc
Email: leblanyl@mcmaster.ca
Office Hours: Via Zoom Video-conferencing Monday 4:30 – 5:30 pm
OR by Appointment

Course Delivery: Virtual and on-line:
Virtual Class Sessions Thurs 4:30 –
5:20 pm Via Zoom Videoconferencing

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Course Description

This course introduces students to gerontology which is the multi-disciplinary study of aging. From a social science perspective, we will consider the social, psychological, economic, and health aspects of growing old in both an individual and societal context. Central to the course is an emphasis on social gerontology. Social gerontologists recognize the biological and psychological impacts of aging but are primarily interested in how society influences aging and how aging shapes society. Social Gerontological areas of interest include community involvement, family relationships, political economy, retirement, and the delivery of health and social services. During the term we will look at a range of topic areas, including population aging, ageism, family life, health, finances, retirement, work, housing, transportation, leisure, recreation, and end of life issues. The course content specifically focuses on older adults and is intended to provide a general background for more specialized studies on aging in later life.

Course Format & Delivery

There are 2 components to the format and delivery of the course:

On-Line:

An online component offered through the McMaster's online learning management system, Avenue-to-Learn (A2L). A2L is web-based and can be accessed from any internet connection. Other than scheduled test dates/times and assignment due dates, students are expected to do the majority of their learning via weekly self-directed modules. Course information including, power point slides with lecture notes, instructional videos, required readings, practice exercises/problems, assignment guidelines and grading rubrics, and any other applicable course resources can be accessed through A2L. PP lecture slides will augment the required reading but will not cover all content presented in the text. This course will also make use of an A2L Discussion Board, to provide opportunities for peer-to-peer and group dialogue. A2L is also used for quizzes, assignment submission, and feedback on the final exam.

Virtual:

There will also be virtual classes delivered by the videoconferencing platform known as Zoom. Students registered in the course can access the virtual classroom through a recurring link that will be provided on Avenue to Learn. Classes will take place each week on Thursday from 4:30 – 5:20 pm. Please refer to the course schedule on pp.10-13 of this course outline. During the term, the class sessions will provide you with the opportunity to raise questions, receive clarifications and voice opinions. Online Zoom etiquette, and ways that you will be able to participate in the Zoom sessions are explained in the module week 1 pp slides and will be reviewed during our first virtual session.

You should be aware that, when you access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, usernames 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.

Teaching Assistant Support

Teaching Assistants (TA's) are a valuable part of the course delivery and will be available to support you in various ways. This includes, facilitating, moderating, and grading discussion board postings, replying to your emails, assisting you with queries about the course, preparing for writing assignments, marking and providing feedback on assignments, and participating in office hours, virtually or via the Avenue 'real-time' Chat Forum. The name of your TA and his or her contact information will be posted on Avenue early in the term.

Course Objectives

The central objective of the course is to provide an opportunity for you to think critically about aging in society and to demonstrate this knowledge both descriptively and analytically. During the term, you will have the opportunity reflect on your own attitudes toward older adults and growing old and to examine key issues currently facing older adults.

Learning Outcomes- The learning outcomes of this course are consistent with [McMaster's Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations](http://ccl.mcmaster.ca/COU/pdf/Undergraduate%20Degree%20Level%20Expectations.pdf).

URL:<http://ccl.mcmaster.ca/COU/pdf/Undergraduate%20Degree%20Level%20Expectations.pdf>.

These connect to several of the undergraduate degree level expectations including developing a depth and breadth of knowledge and development of communication skills.

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

- Identify and describe career pathways in the field of aging
 - describe myths about aging and identify implications of ageism
 - identify and explain theories and concepts key to the study of aging
 - explain key research methods used in 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, self-reflection, and library-based research skills

Required Materials and Texts

Required Textbook (available through the McMaster bookstore)

Wister, A.V. (2019). *Aging as a Social Process: Canada and beyond*. (7th ed.). Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Course Skills Assignment #1 (3%) Due Sept 19th
2. Course Skills Assignment #2 (5%) Due Oct 3rd
3. Practice Quiz (1%) Available Monday Sept 21st to Friday Sept 25th
4. Test #1 (25%) Mon Oct 19th
5. Discussion Board Postings X 4 = 16% (1 post required between weeks 3-5 & 3 posts between weeks 7 and 13)
6. Writing Assignment (15%) Due Nov 23rd
7. Test #2 (35%) TBA

Course Evaluation – Details

Course Skills Assignment #1 Using Avenue to Learn (3%) Due Sept 19th

The first skills assignment is designed to assist students in becoming familiar with tools available on Avenue to Learn so that you are familiar with how to access course announcements, the course outline, weekly course modules, the discussion board, chat, quizzes, and assignment submission folders. You will be asked to answer 6 questions that entail locating information that is posted on Avenue. Further information about the assignment will be reviewed during our virtual class session and detailed in the week 1 pp slides posted on Avenue.

Course Skills Assignment #2 APA Formatting & Plagiarism (5%) Due October 3rd

The second skills assignment is designed to assist you in becoming familiar with APA formatting in writing assignments, and to understand how to avoid plagiarism when writing essays. Further information about the assignment will be reviewed during our virtual class session and posted on Avenue.

Tests & Quizzes

Practice Quiz (1%) available from Monday Sept 21st at 9 am to Friday Sept 25th at 9 pm

There will be one on-line practice quiz, based on course content, scheduled during the term. The purpose of the quiz is to a) help familiarize you with how test questions will be designed and b) to prepare you for taking tests on-line through Avenue to Learn. The quiz will consist of 10 questions that may encompass a combination of multiple choice & multiple selection questions, that will test your knowledge and understanding of the course material. The quiz will not be evaluated for accuracy, only for completion. To allow for equity and accessibility, the quiz will be available from Monday Sept 21st at 9 am to Friday Sept 25th at 9 pm but once you log on, you will only have 20 minutes to complete the quiz. Adjustments will be made for students registered with SAS who have additional time for writing tests as part of their accommodations.

Test #1 (25%) Oct 22nd

Test #1 will be administered on-line via the Avenue to Learn 'Quizzes' portal on October 22nd. The questions will be based on material from the text, and any other posted class materials and is worth 25% of your final grade. The test will consist of 50 questions that may encompass a combination of multiple choice & multiple selection questions, matching questions, and application/conceptual questions that will test your knowledge of the required readings and additional course material. To allow for equity and accessibility, the test will be available from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm on the scheduled date but once you log on, you will only have 60 minutes to complete it. Adjustments will be made for students registered with SAS who have additional time for writing tests as part of their accommodations.

During the on-line test, you are not allowed to collaborate with your peers nor are you able to take screen shots, post photos, post questions online, access webpages for answers, or any similar behavior/activity etc., as doing so is a form of academic dishonesty. Read the McMaster University Academic Integrity Policy in advance of the test. Strategies are in place to prevent academic dishonesty when writing the on-line test. Although you have access to your course material during the test, please remember that to be successful, you must keep up with learning course content on a regular basis and study in advance of the test.

Test #2 (35%) Date TBA

At the end of the term, Test #2 will be administered online via the Avenue to Learn 'Quizzes' portal. The test may encompass a combination of multiple choice & multiple selection questions, matching questions, and application/conceptual questions that will test your knowledge of the required readings and additional course material weeks 7 to 13 inclusive.

During the on-line test, you are not allowed to collaborate with your peers nor are you able to take screen shots, post photos, post questions online, access webpages for answers, or any similar behavior/activity etc., as doing so is a form of academic dishonesty. Read the McMaster University Academic Integrity Policy in advance of the test. Strategies are in place to prevent academic dishonesty when writing the on-line test. Although you have access to your course material during the test, please remember that to be successful, you must keep up with learning course content on a regular basis and study in advance of the test.

Further details about the test will be posted on Avenue.

Discussion Board Postings X 4 (16%)

At the beginning of the term, each student will be assigned to a discussion group. The size and number of the groups will depend on course enrollment. Each group will be assigned a teaching assistant (TA) who be available to facilitate and monitor the discussions and grade the individual member's postings. In the discussion forum, you will have the opportunity to engage in reflective, exercises about aging; for example, your perceptions of older adults, growing older, key issues facing older adults etc. One of the postings must be made between weeks 3 and 5 and three other postings between weeks 7 and 13. You are required to submit a thoughtful 200 -250 word written

individual response to the posted activity (using proper grammar and complete sentences), and then respond (in a short comment – one to two sentences) to one other student's entry that is different from your own. Your individual response must be posted by 11:59 pm on Wednesday and your peer response must be posted by 11:59 pm on Saturday of the week that discussion activity is scheduled. Your discussion board postings will be graded based on the quality of your responses. The schedule of activities, activity directions, and a grading rubric for the discussion posts will be posted in the discussions section on Avenue.

Writing Assignment: Critical Analysis of an Aging Issue (15%) Due Nov 23rd

This assignment gives you the opportunity to individually explore and assess a focused topic related to a course-based theme and share your insights in writing. You may work individually or in pairs on this assignment. If you choose to work in pairs, each of you must contribute equitably to the assignment and both of you will receive the same grade. Specific topics must be approved by your teaching assistant a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the due date. Students are required to write a 4-5-page essay that links a theoretical concept, relevant findings from required reading and course material, and a minimum of 2 additional scholarly research articles to your chosen topic. Further instructions and a grading rubric will be posted on Avenue.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Each Module will (encompass a weekly course theme) and include:

- a) an audio recording or written transcript that provides an overview of the weekly module
- b) a set of power point slides (with instructor notes), exercises, and captioned video clips to guide your learning and to encourage critical thinking about the weekly course content
- c) assigned weekly readings
- d) additional topic applicable resources – i.e. workshop pp slides, pre-recorded guest presentations; and recommended reading

Week 1 (Beginning Wed Sept 9th)

TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Readings:

- Course Outline

Notes:

- Prior to class:
 - read the 'Avenue to Learn Announcements',
 - review the PP slides posted on Avenue and complete 'Getting Started' exercises
- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 pm.

Week 2 (Beginning Monday Sept 14th)

TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO AGING AS A SOCIAL PROCESS

Readings:

TEXT: Chapter 1

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 pm.
- Course Skills Assignment #1 Due in the Appropriate Avenue Drop Box Thurs Sept 19th 11:59 pm.

Week 3 (Beginning Monday Sept 21st)

TOPIC: DEMOGRAPHICS OF AGING IN CANADA/ CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 2
- TEXT: Chapter 4

Notes:

- Practice Quiz based on course material from weeks 1 and 2 opens Monday Sept 21st at 9 am (consists of 10 multiple choice questions) and closes Friday Sept 25th at 9 pm
- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 pm

Week 4 (Beginning Monday Sept 28th)

TOPIC: THEORIES ON AGING / RESEARCH ISSUES AND METHODS

Readings

- TEXT: Chapter 5

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 p.m.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 p.m.-5:20 pm.
- Course Skills Assignment #2 – APA Formatting and Plagiarism- Due in the appropriate Avenue Drop Box Saturday Oct 3rd 11:59 pm

Week 5 (Beginning Monday Oct 5th)

TOPIC: MATURATIONAL CHANGE: THE AGING BODY & THE AGING MIND

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 3

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- On-line
 - Pre-recorded Guest Presentation Dr Ellen Ryan: Aging with Spirit through Poetry and Contemplative Photography.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 pm.
 - Discussion of Writing Assignments

Week 6 Midterm Recess Oct 12th – 18th

No Required Readings

Week 7 (Beginning Monday Oct 19th)

TOPIC: SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND AGING

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 6

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- No Virtual Class Oct 22nd
- ***Test #1 Oct 22nd Based on Course Material Weeks 1-5

Week 8 (Beginning Monday Oct 26th)

TOPIC: THE LIVED ENVIRONMENT: HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 8

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 pm.

Week 9 (Beginning Monday No 2nd)

TOPIC: WORK, INCOME AND RETIREMENT IN LATER LIFE

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 10

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 pm.

Week 10 (Beginning Monday Nov 9th)

TOPIC: AGING, HEALTH, AND HEALTH CARE

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 7
- [Byrne, K., Frazee, K., Sims-Gould, J., & Martin-Matthews, A. \(2012\). Valuing the older person in the context of delivery and receipt of home support: Client perspectives. Journal of Applied Gerontology, 31\(3\), 377-401. doi:10.1177/0733464810387578](https://doi.org/10.1177/0733464810387578)

Required reading- pp 378-381 (Explains the concept of 'personhood'

URL:http://resolver.scholarsportal.info.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/resolve/07334648/v31i0003/377_vtopitrohscp.xml

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 pm.

Week 11 (Beginning Monday Nov 16th)

TOPIC: INFORMAL CAREGIVING & END OF LIFE ISSUES

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 12

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 pm.

Week 12 (Beginning Monday Nov 23rd)

TOPIC: FAMILY TIES RELATIONSHIPS & TRANSITIONS

- TEXT: Chapter 9

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 pm.
- ***Writing Assignment Due Monday Nov 23rd

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Week 13 (Beginning Monday Nov 30th)

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND CONNECTEDNESS & LEISURE IN LATER LIFE

Readings:

- Text: Chapter 11

Notes:

- Virtual Office Hours via Zoom Monday 4:30 pm.-5:30 pm.
- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom Thursday 4:30 pm.-5:20 p.m.

Week 14 (Beginning Monday Dec 7th)

Course Wrap Up

***** Wednesday December 9th Virtual Class via Zoom 4:30 pm. – 5:20 pm**

Readings:

- No Required Readings

Notes:

- ***Test # 2 Based on Course Material weeks 7-13; Date TBA

Course Policies

Assignments

Detailed instructions and grading rubrics for assignments will be posted on Avenue to Learn. Unless otherwise specified, each writing assignment must be submitted electronically in a WORD document to the appropriate Avenue to Learn drop box no later than 11:30 am on the date due; hardcopies or emailed copies will not be accepted. All assignments should have a title page, all pages should be numbered and have 2.54 cm (1 inch) margins on all four sides. All text should be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman Font. Assignments must be properly using the APA Style Guide. Carefully follow the manuscript formatting with respect to in-text citation references, reference page formatting, and manuscript writing style. See: [McMaster APA Style Guide](#).

Writing assignments will be submitted into the Avenue Assignment drop box. You can access all assignment submission folders by clicking on 'Assessments' on either the Course Announcement or Content Page of Avenue. Under 'Assessments' click on "Assignments". You will also find a direct a link to each specific assignment drop box in the weekly module that the assignment is due.

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

Assignments will be marked down 10% if turned in late on the day it is due, and an additional 10 percentage points for each day it is late after that; this includes weekend days and holidays. Without formal accommodations, no assignments will be accepted 1 week after the due date.

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](#), 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

Requests For Relief For Missed Academic Term Work

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Copyright And Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

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.

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.

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.

Course Modification

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. If any 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 his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Email

Send all emails to my McMaster email account: leblanyl@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 Dr. LeBlanc,” and 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 2 business days (I will generally not respond to emails over the weekend). Emails requiring a more detailed response will be answered during virtual office hours or by phone.

University Policies

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on

online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

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 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 his or her 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.