

HLTHAGE 1BB3 – INTRODUCTION TO AGING AND SOCIETY

Winter 2021

January 11, 2021 to April 14, 2021

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Virtual Office Hours: Tues 4-5 pm Via Zoom OR by Appointment

Course Delivery: Synchronous Class Tues 7 pm to 8:50 pm Via Zoom

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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: Asynchronous

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. A2L is also used for quizzes, assignment submission, and feedback.

Virtual: Synchronous

There will also be a virtual class 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. Short lectures highlighting key aspects of the weekly course content will take place each week on Tuesday from 7-7:50 pm with an optional drop-in session from 8 pm to 8:50 pm. The lecture portion of the class will be recorded and posted on Avenue. The drop-in sessions will provide you with the opportunity to raise questions, receive clarifications and voice opinions. For privacy reasons this portion of the class will not be recorded. 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 the first week of classes.

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.

Tutorial Participation (10%)

In this course skilled Teaching Assistants will be available to support the academic needs of students in a variety of ways. The TA's will hold virtual office hours, lead tutorial sessions, and provide instructions and guidance regarding assignments, readings, and preparing for exams. Your assignments will be graded by your TA and she will provide feedback to you on your progress in the course. You will be assigned to a specific Teaching Assistant based on which tutorial section you are enrolled in and the tutorial information and office hours and office location will be posted on Avenue to Learn.

Students are required to attend 5 scheduled tutorials during the term. You will be assigned to a specific Teaching Assistant based on which tutorial section you are registered in. Students must enroll in a tutorial section on Mosaic. To keep the class size of the tutorials small, students will be divided into groups A or B for each time slot and at scheduled times during the term will attend tutorials on alternate weeks. You are responsible for knowing the times and dates for your tutorial group. Tutorials will begin Week 3.

Full attendance participation will be required to obtain your 10%. At each tutorial your TA will take attendance. Students will earn 1 point for attendance and can earn 1 point for full participation. There are a variety of ways to earn participation grades, including bringing insights and questions for discussion, sharing of media clips that illustrate course concepts, and taking part in tutorial exercises and assignments. Ways to earn participation marks will be reviewed by your TA during the first tutorial. It is mandatory that students attend and fully participate 5 tutorials during the term to achieve the maximum grade of 10%.

If, due to exceptional circumstances, you are unable to attend the tutorial section in which you are registered, you can request to be moved to another tutorial session. However, it may not be possible to grant all of these requests.

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](#).

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.

Please visit the [Campus Store](#) (online) to purchase your course textbook

URL: https://campusstore.mcmaster.ca/cgi-mcm/ws/txsub.pl?wsTERMG1=211&wsDEPTG1=HLTHAGE&wsCOURSEG1=1BB3&wsSECTIONG1=VE%20C01&crit_cnt=1

Course Evaluation – Overview

- Midterm Test (30%) Feb 23rd
- Tutorial Participation (10%)
- Term Writing Assignment (25%)
 - Paper 'Proposal' Due March 6th (5%)
 - Critical Analysis Paper Due March 27th (20%)

- Final Exam (35%) TBA – scheduled by the registrar

Course Evaluation – Details

Midterm Test (30%)

The midterm test will be administered on-line via the Avenue to Learn 'Quizzes' portal on February 23, 2021. The questions will be based on material from the text, and any other posted class materials and is worth 30 % of your final grade. The test will consist of multiple-choice 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 7 pm to 9 pm on the scheduled date but once you log on, you will have a limited amount of time to complete it (I, Dr. LeBlanc will advise you of the exact number of questions and the amount of time that you will have to complete it well in advance of the test). 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.

Final Exam (35%)

At the end of the term, the final exam will be administered online via the Avenue to Learn 'Quizzes' portal. The test will consist of multiple choice and possibly true and false questions. 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 reviewed in tutorial and posted on Avenue.

Term Writing Assignment: Critical Analysis of an Aging Issue (25%)

Barring exceptional circumstances, where official accommodations are granted, submissions will not be accepted 1 week after the scheduled due date. This assignment gives you the opportunity to individually explore and critically assess a focused topic related to a course-based theme and share your insights in writing.

Paper proposal (worth 5%) Due March 6th

- identifies a focused topic
- provides a working thesis statement (answering who, what, why and how)
- describes your preliminary arguments supported by outside scholarly research articles (published 2011 or later) that you will use in your paper to support your arguments
- provides a properly formatted reference page

Further instructions and a grading rubric will be posted on Avenue.

Critical Analysis of an Aging Issue Final Paper Due March 27th

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 4 peer reviewed scholarly research articles (published 2011 or later) to your chosen topic. Further instructions and a grading rubric will be posted on Avenue.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week 1 (Beginning Monday January 11th)

TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

No Required Reading

Notes:

- Attend Virtual Class via Zoom on Tuesday January 12, 2021 at 7 pm.

Week 2 (Beginning Monday January 18th)

TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO AGING AS A SOCIAL PROCESS

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 1

Week 3 (Beginning Monday January 25th)

TOPIC: DEMOGRAPHICS OF AGING IN CANADA

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 4

Notes:

- Tutorials (Group A) begin this week. Introductions & 'APA formatting'

Week 4 (Beginning Monday February 1st)

TOPIC: THEORIES ON AGING / RESEARCH ISSUES AND METHODS

Readings

- TEXT: Chapter 5

Notes:

- Tutorials (Group B) begin this week. Introductions 'APA formatting'

Week 5 (Beginning Monday February 8th)

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

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 3

Notes:

- Virtual Class: Preparing for Term Writing Assignment- review of term paper proposal
- Tutorials Group A and B
 - Review for Midterm Test

Week 6 Midterm Recess Monday February 15 to Sunday, February 21

No Required Readings

Week 7 (Beginning Monday February 22nd)

TOPIC: SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND AGING

Required Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 6

Notes:

- No Virtual Class

No Tutorials

- ***Midterm Test, Tuesday Feb 23, 2021; Based on Course Material Weeks 1-5

Week 8 (Beginning Monday March 1st)

TOPIC: THE LIVED ENVIRONMENT: HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 8

Notes:

- Tutorials (Group A) Workshop on Writing/ Writing Assignment
- Paper Proposal Due March 6th

Week 9 (Beginning Monday March 8th)

TOPIC: WORK, INCOME AND RETIREMENT IN LATER LIFE

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 10

Notes:

- Tutorials (Group B) Workshop on Writing/ Writing Assignment

Week 10 (Beginning Monday March 15th)

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](#)

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:

- Tutorials (Group A)

Week 11 (Beginning Monday March 22nd)

TOPIC: INFORMAL CAREGIVING & END OF LIFE ISSUES

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 12

Notes:

- Tutorials (Group B)

****Writing Assignment Due March 27, 2020 at 11:59 pm.

Week 12 (Beginning Monday March 29th)

TOPIC: FAMILY TIES RELATIONSHIPS & TRANSITIONS

Readings:

- TEXT: Chapter 9

Notes:

*** No Scheduled Tutorials This Week

Week 13 (Beginning Monday April 5th)

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND CONNECTEDNESS & LEISURE IN LATER LIFE

Required Readings:

- Text: Chapter 11

Notes:

- Tutorial Tutorials Groups A and B
- Tutorial 'Review For Final Exam'

Week 14 (Beginning Monday April 12th)

Course Wrap Up

No Required Readings

Notes:

- Final Exam TBA: as scheduled by the registrar.

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 11:59 pm on the date due; 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.

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 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. Without formal accommodations, no assignments will be accepted 1 week after the due date.

Review of Marks

We will be diligent in marking all assignments fairly and accurately. However, occasionally students disagree with the marks they receive. If this occurs, I (Dr. LeBlanc) will be happy to review the mark of any assignment, if the procedure outlined below is followed. Please note that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.

To request a review of a mark, write a 1-page typed memo describing in detail the nature of the perceived marking error. Submit this memo via email to me. You may submit requests for review no sooner than 48 hours, and no later than 1 week after the assignment feedback is distributed via the Avenue drop box.

Release of Grades

Assignment grades will NOT be given out over the phone or by email. Final exam grades will not be released by the instructor. Final course grades will be released through the Registrar's Office.

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

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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 behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

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 other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to

www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Courses with an On-line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, 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 a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and

record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

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.

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”.

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.

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.

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.

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.