

HLTHAGE 1BB3: INTRODUCTION TO AGING AND SOCIETY

Summer 2022 / June 20th – August 5th

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Lecture: *In person lectures*
LRW 1055 – Tuesday and Thursday's at
5:30 - 8:00pm

Office: LRW 2024 or KTH 206
Office Hours: See description below

Contents

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Materials and Texts	3
Class Format.....	3
Course Evaluation – Overview	4
1. In-class Group Participation - 10%, on-going	4
2. Term Assignment - 30%, due on July 10 th	4
3. Midterm Test - 25%, July 19 th , 2022	4
4. Final Test - 35%, August 4 th , 2022	4
Course Evaluation – Details	4
Term Assignment (30%) – July 10 th , 2022.....	4
Midterm Test (25%) July 19 th , 2022.....	4
Final Test (35%) August 4 th , 2022	5
In class participation (10%), On-going.....	5
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings	5
Week 1 (June 21 st - June 23 rd).....	5
Week 2 (June 28 th – June 30 th).....	6
Week 3 (July 5 th - July 7 th)	6
Week 4 (July 12 th - July 14 th)	6
Week 5 (July 19 th – July 21 st).....	6
Week 6 (July 26 th – 28 th).....	7
Week 7 (August 2 nd – August 4 th)	7
Course Policies	7
Office Hours.....	7
Email.....	7

Use of Mobile Devices	8
Grades	8
Submission of Assignments.....	8
Late Assignments	8
Course Modification	9
University Policies	9
Academic Integrity	9
Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection	9
Courses with an On-line Element	10
Online Proctoring	10
Conduct Expectations.....	10
Academic Accommodation of Students With Disabilities	10
Requests For Relief For Missed Academic Term Work.....	11
Academic Accommodation For Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)	11
Copyright And Recording.....	11
Extreme Circumstances.....	11
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy	11

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, care, health, finances, retirement, work, housing, transportation, leisure, recreation, and end of life issues. The content of the course focuses on older people 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 should 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
- Have a sound understanding of the diversity of the aging experience
- Describe key physical and developmental changes that occur with age
- Discuss institutional changes in response to population aging
- Identify and explain challenges facing older people
- Advance writing, critical thinking, and research skills

Required Materials and Texts

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 to purchase your course textbook. The Textbook is available in print or e-text.

Class Format

In class lectures will reinforce course readings, and involve power-point slides, in-class activities, 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; regular attendance must be a central priority. Lectures will augment the required reading but will not cover all content presented in the text.

Required reading should be completed prior to class on Tuesday and Thursday you should be prepared to actively participate in class and during group discussions. In addition: During the term, all course information including, announcements, power point slides, assignment guidelines and grading rubrics, and course resources as well as assignment submission folders can be accessed through Avenue to Learn (A2L) (<https://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>).

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. In-class Group Participation - 10%, on-going
2. Term Assignment - 30%, due on July 10th
3. Midterm Test - 25%, July 19th, 2022
4. Final Test - 35%, August 4th, 2022

Course Evaluation – Details

Term Assignment (30%) – July 10th, 2022

At the beginning of the semester, students will be divided into small groups. Each group will choose (from an instructor derived list) a place which they will then visit as a group. This visit to a public space, internal or external, will involve assessing it in terms of how 'age friendly' it is to use and navigate. Students should take pictures to include in the report to demonstrate design features they may use in presenting their analysis as to what aspects of the space appear to be helpful or unhelpful (e.g., signage, colour, visual access). Groups are expected to review their images and discuss how aspects of the space adheres to age-friendly guidelines. This will be compiled into a comprehensive report which will be submitted for grading. The report should be 8-10 pages and follow APA guidelines. Students will also submit information about the contribution of each group members participation and contribution to the group project. These evaluations will be applied to the individual grade. Further information will be provided in class and on A2L.

Midterm Test (25%) July 19th, 2022

There will be a midterm test 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 40 multiple choice questions.

This test is open-book, meaning that you can use your lecture notes and text as resources while writing the test. However, you are not allowed to collaborate with peers nor are you able to take screen shots, post photos, post questions online, access webpages for answers, or any similar behaviour/activity etc., as doing so is a form of academic dishonesty. Please remember that an open book testing format does not mean you do not need to keep up with class learning content or study for the tests.

Final Test (35%) August 4th, 2022

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

This test is open-book, meaning that you can use your lecture notes and text as resources while writing the test. However, you are not allowed to collaborate with peers nor are you able to take screen shots, post photos, post questions online, access webpages for answers, or any similar behaviour/activity etc., as doing so is a form of academic dishonesty. Please remember that an open book testing format does not mean you do not need to keep up with class learning content or study for the tests.

In class participation (10%), On-going

Discussions will be held weekly for groups to engage with. Participation will be based on contribution to discussions and activities, in class attentiveness, and thoughtful completion and sharing of discussion. Each week you will be provided with the opportunity to participate in collaborative learning with your peers. Working in groups of 3-4, students will be expected to engage in discussion about the lecture, readings and provide 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 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.

- 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 and posted on A2L.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (June 21st - June 23rd)

June 21st - Introduction to the course

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

Notes:

June 23rd - Aging as a Social Process and Demographics of Aging

Readings: Chapter 1, 4

Notes: Sign up for Group Assignment

Week 2 (June 28th – June 30th)

June 28th - Theories, Methods, and Cultural Diversity

Readings: Chapter 2, 5

Notes: Final sign up for Group assignment

June 30th – Lived Environment, Housing, Community

Readings: Chapter 8

Notes: Workshop for Group assignment

Week 3 (July 5th - July 7th)

July 5th – The Aging Mind and Body

Readings: Chapter 3

Notes: Potential Guest Speaker

July 7th – Social Structures and Aging

Readings: Chapter 6

Notes: Group Project due July 10th, 2022

Week 4 (July 12th - July 14th)

July 12th – Health Care transitions in an Aging context

Readings: Chapter 7

Notes: Group Project due July 10th, 2022

July 14th – Relationships, Ties, and Transitions, in later life

Readings: Chapter 9

Notes: Mid-term Review

Week 5 (July 19th – July 21st)

July 19th – No Lecture - Midterm Test

Readings: Course Materials (Week 1-4)

Notes: **More information provided in due time**

July 21st – Work, Retirement, and Economic Security

Readings: Chapter 10

Week 6 (July 26th – 28th)

July 26th – Social Participation, Social connectedness, and Leisure

Readings: Chapter 11

Week 7 (August 2nd – August 4th)

August 2nd – End of Life issues and Caregiving

Readings: Chapter 12

Notes: Review for final exam

August 4th – No lecture - Final Test

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

Notes: **More information provided in due time**

Course Policies

Office Hours

Office hours will be held online (or if you choose in person) in LRW on the second-floor room 2024. In this course, we will be using [Calendly](#). You can use it to schedule a 15 minute meeting during my office hours every Thursday between 4:00pm – 5:00pm or if you cannot make that time or day, feel free to email me to set up an appointment. More information to follow on A2L.

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 Dr. Hatzifilalithis,” and not “Hey Fam”. Add a closing that includes your full name, such as “Sincerely, Jane Smith.” Email failing to meet these standards may be returned unanswered. Emails that require a very short reply will be answered within 3 working days (I will generally not respond to emails over the weekend). Email questions requiring a more detailed response will only be answered during office hours/by appointment.

Use of Mobile Devices

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

Submission of Assignments

Submission of 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.

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".

Late Assignments

Unless provided approval by me, 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.

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.

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](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), 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.