

McMASTER UNIVERSITY
Department of Health, Aging & Society
HLTH AGE 713: Critical Perspectives on Aging FALL 2017
Dr. James Gillett, Office: KTH 234, ext. 27424, gillett@mcmaster.ca
Time: Wednesday 11:30 am – 2:20 pm Room: LRW 5001

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course introduces students to critical perspectives on aging by examining the intersections between the lives of older adults and the institutional structures that they encounter and negotiate on a daily basis. Beginning with the welfare state, we survey key areas of research in social gerontology addressing institutions such as health care, education, law, family and religion. A key objective is for students to actively engage in literature on public institutions and aging and relate this scholarship to their own interests and development.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

There is no text in this course. Readings for each week are provided in the schedule below and available through the McMaster library system.

COURSE STRUCTURE: In each class students will be expected to bring to the discussion a supplemental reading in the social sciences based on the course readings and related to their own interests or program of research. Students may also be assigned additional readings on a weekly basis.

EVALUATION: All written assignments need to be: double spaced with one inch borders in 12 pitch font. Please include a list of references and a title page that includes your name, ID number and date. Please use APA style or another standardized style found in a scholarly journal.

Written Assignments: Students will write two critical analysis papers. The first, (worth 20%; due November 1st ; five to eight pages) discusses the changing dynamics of the welfare state over time in relation to aging and discusses the consequences, positive and negative, on the lives of older adults. In the second (worth 55%; due mid-December; twenty to thirty pages) students will look in more depth at one public institution or compare two different public institutions, analyzing the ways in which the lives of older adults are structured and shared by institutional structures and discourses.

Weekly Presentations (25%): For each class students will find a supplemental article (or book chapter) based on their readings of the course material for that week. Each student will be asked to present a brief summary of the article and discuss its relationship to the theme for that week. The informal presentations are mandatory and will be marked pass or fail. For inadequate or missed presentations, students can submit a two page written summary. Full marks will be given once students have provided an adequate presentation or summary for each week.

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 his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: 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.

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.

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 <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

Sept. 13	Overview	No Readings
Sept. 20	Institutions and the Welfare State	- Martinson, M. & Minkler, M. 2006. Civic Engagement and Older Adults, <i>The Gerontologist</i> , 46, 3, 318–324 - Rudman, D. 2006. Shaping the Active, Autonomous & Responsible Modern Retiree. <i>Ageing and Society</i> , 26, 02, 181-201.
Sept. 27	Family	- Daatland, S. et al. 2012. Age and Intergenerational Attitudes in the Family and the Welfare State. <i>Advances in Life Course Research</i> , 17, 133-144. - Brackbill, Y. 1988. The Perfect Child. <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 2, 3, 243-254.
Oct. 4	Law	- Glick, H. 1991. The Right to Die. <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 5, 3, 283-307. - Vittoria, A. 1992. The Elderly Guardianship Hearing. <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 6, 2, 165-190.
Oct. 11	Fall Break	
Oct. 18	Media	- Cormejo, R. et al 2013. Enriching In-Person Encounters through Social Media. <i>Int. J. of Human Computer Studies</i> , 71, 889-899. - Van Der Goot, M., et al. 2012. Meanings of Television in Older Adults’ Lives. <i>Ageing and Society</i> , 32, 01, 147-168.
Oct. 25	Religion	- Spinder, M. 2008. Surrogate Religion, Spiritual Materialism, or Protestant Ethic? <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 22, 322-330. - Levin, J. & Chatters, L. 2008. Religion Aging & Health. <i>Journal of Religion Spirituality and Aging</i> , 20, 1-2, 153-172.
Nov 1	Sport Assign Due	- Katz, S. Busy Bodies. 2000. <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 14, 2, 135-152. - Tulle, E. 2008. Acting Your Age. <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 22, 340-347.
Nov 8	Health Care	- Barer, et al. 1987. Aging & Health Care Utilization. <i>Soc Sci & Med</i> , 24, 10, 862-862. - Chaufan, C. 2012. Medical Ideology as Double Edged Sword, <i>Soc Sci & Med</i> , 74, 788-795.
Nov 15	Economy	- Robertson, A. 2000. I Saw the Handwriting on the Wall. <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 14, 1, 63-79. - Berger, E. 2006. Aging Identities. <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 20, 303-316
Nov. 22	Education	- Sloane, A. & Kops, B. 2007. Older Adult Learners. <i>Canadian Journal of University Continuing Education</i> , 33, 1, 17-34. - Sloane, A. & Kops, B. 2010. Older Adults Participation in Education and Successful Aging. <i>Canadian Journal of University Continuing Education</i> , 36, 1, 1-29.
Nov. 29	Science	- Fishman et al. 2008. Anti-Aging Science: The Emergence, Maintenance, and Enhancement of the Discipline. <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 22, 295-303. - Vincent, J. 2008. The Cultural Construction of Old Age as a Biological Phenomenon. <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 22, 331-339.
Dec. 6	Conclusion	- Minkler, M & Holstein, M. 2008. From Civil Rights to Civic Engagement? <i>Journal of Aging Studies</i> , 22, 196-204.

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.

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 Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the Department of Health, Aging & Society at 905-525-9140 ext. 27227 | e-mail: hasdept@mcmaster.ca