UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS
FALL 2019
SYLLABUS

AGER/SOCI 4550 Sociology of Aging   3 Hrs
Department of Counseling & Human Services

Department of	Human Services	Division of	Education
Instructor Name:	*Dr. Iftekhar Amin*		
Office Location:	*UNT Dallas 1 Room 1380*		
Email Address:	**iftekhar.amin@untdallas.edu**		
Office Hours:	Wednesday 10 am-2 pm		
Virtual Office Hours:	*Tuesdays 10 am- 2 pm*		
Classroom Location:	Online		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Online		
Course Catalog Description:	Twenty-somethings, generation Xers, baby boomers—all will be senior citizens sooner or later. Their sex, race/ethnicity and social class will affect their experience of aging. Course explores issues related to successful aging, including what young adults should be doing now to ensure that they have happy, healthy, wealthy and creative golden years.		
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1510 or equivalent		
Co-requisites:	N/A		
Required Text:	Social Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Perspective, 9/E Nancy Hooyman H. Asuman Kiyak ISBN-10: 0205763138 • ISBN-13: 9780205763139 ©2011 • Pearson		
Recommended Text and References:	N/A		

Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625;
	       web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm
	UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652;
	       e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com		

Course Goals or Overview:			
	Due to an increasing interest in understanding the process of aging and the changing demographics of the world, including the United States, gerontology is a growing field. More and more people in the U.S. are living beyond age 65 or even 85, with these "oldest old" as the fastest growing age group among Americans. The population of older adults in the U.S. is also becoming more ethnically diverse. The growth of the older population has raised questions as to whether our nation is prepared to meet the health care and social service needs of this group and their families. The purpose of this course is to present the student with a multidisciplinary overview of the issues and problems that concern the gerontologist.		

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	At the end of this course, the students should be able to
1	- define social gerontology and discuss its origins and current areas of focus
2	- summarize the biological and physiological changes related to aging
3	- explain the cognitive changes that are linked with aging as well as the theories that explain such changes and adaptations
4	- Assess the social context of older adults experience, such as their living arrangements, employment, family supports and discrimination;
5	- discuss the social policies and social problems affected older adults in the U.S

COURSE OUTLINE

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated through announcements in class.

TOPICS	Works
Module 1 Weeks 1-2 (8/26-9/8) Chapter 1: The Growth of Social Gerontology Chapter 2: Historical and Cross-Cultural Issues in Aging	**Introduction** **Discussion 1**
Module 2 Weeks 3-4 (9/9-9/22) Chapter 3: The Social Consequences of Physical Aging **Work on project** Chapter 4: Managing Chronic Diseases and Promoting Well-Being in Old Age Chapter 5: Cognitive Changes with Aging	9/10- 9/16 Quiz 1 **Draft of the project due by Sept 15**
Module 3 Weeks 5-6 (9/23- 10/6) Chapter 6: Mental Personality and Health in Old Age	**9/24- 9/30** **Innovative Technology project due by 9/24**
Module 4 Weeks 7-8 (10/7- 10/20) Chapter 7: Love, Intimacy, and Sexuality in Old Age Chapter 8: Social Theories of Aging	10/8- 10/14 Quiz 2 **Discussion 2**
Module 5 Weeks 9-10 (10/21- 11/3) Chapter 9: The Importance of Social Supports: Family, Friends, Neighbors, and Communities Chapter 10: Opportunities and Stresses of Informal Caregiving Chapter 11: Living Arrangements and Social Interactions	Quiz 3 **Discussion 3**
Module 6 Weeks 11-12 (11/4- 11/17) Chapter 12: Productive Aging: Paid and Nonpaid Roles and Activities Chapter 13: Death, Dying, Bereavement, and Widowhood Chapter 14: The Resilience of Elders of Color	Quiz 4 **Discussion 4**
Module 7 Weeks 13-14 (11/18- 12/1) Chapter 16: Social Policies to Address Social Problems	Quiz 5 **Discussion 5**
Module 8 Weeks 15-16 (12/2- 12/15) Chapter 17: Health and Long-Term Care Policy and Programs	Quiz 6 Research paper due

COURSE EVALUATION METHODS

I. Quizzes
Students will take 6 quizzes each worth 100 points.

II. Discussions
Begin assignments early in case of technical difficulties. For 5 times throughout the semester students will be asked a specific question or questions related to course materials. *These questions will be posted in the Canvas.* You will have a minimum of THREE DAYS to post your response, read statements from other students and submit comments to them. Discussion Area submissions are worth total 5X40=200 points.

III. Project

Innovative Technology Poster: Students will submit a paper/poster where they will:
- o Identify a problem that affects healthy aging of older adults and/or caregivers of older adults. Innovative ideas are should be the focus of the paper/poster. It could include the use of existing technology, however the innovation and/or technology does not have to currently exist.
- o Describe the way the identified problem has been addressed in the past
- o Review ways that it is currently being addressed
- o Present future innovation and/or technology that can assist in providing a solution or support for the problem identified.
- o Discuss any obstacles with implementation
- o Explain how this innovation and/or technology supports healthy aging

Students are highly encouraged to work in group of no more than 5 people. If you need me to connect you to fellow classmates to form a group, let me know. But if you already know others that you would like to work with just send me your group members' names. But if you want to work alone, that is fine as well. Details about the poster will be announced in the class. If your poster is good enough, I will help you submit it to the upcoming Dallas Area Gerontology poster competition.
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IV. Research Paper: At the end of the semester, students will submit a research paper. The details will be posted on CANVAS.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Quizzes	6 Quizzes at 100 points each	600
Discussions	5 discussions at 40 points each	200
Project	1 Project	100
Research paper	100 points	100
Total:		**1000**

Grade Determination: *(sample given)*
A = 900 – 1000 pts; i.e. 90% or better
B = 800 – 899 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %
C = 700 – 799 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %
D = 600 – 699 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %
F = 599 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students:

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see Disability Services Office. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untdallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement is also provided.

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy:

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: (According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/program's guidelines).

Exam Policy: (Online exams and the ability to retake is solely at the instructor's discretion). NOTE: Online exams may be proctored on campus per instructor's discretion.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to UNT Dallas' Student Code of Academic Integrity for complete provisions of this code. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom Policies

Online Attendance and Participation:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Canvas classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the

discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Canvas, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to UNT Dallas' Registrar for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course.

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Online "Netiquette":
In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to UNT Dallas Student Code of Conduct. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Assistance: In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements listed on the first page of the syllabus.

If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor.

If the problem is still not resolved, call Student Assistance (Distance Learning) at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:
- [UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements](#)
- [Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems](#)