

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS**  
**FALL 2012**  
**SYLLABUS**

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



Department of	Human Services	Division of	Education
<b>Instructor Name:</b> <i>Dr. Iftekhar Amin</i>			
<b>Office Location:</b> <b>DAL 2 327</b>			
<b>Email Address:</b> <b>Iftekhar.amin@unt.edu</b>			
<b>Office Hours:</b> M 8:50-9:50 AM; W 12:00-1:00 PM; R 11:50-6:50 PM.			
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b> <i>N/A</i>			
<b>Classroom Location:</b> DAL 2# 101			
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b> R 7:00-9:50 pm			
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>		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. Prerequisite(s):	
<b>Prerequisites:</b>		SOCI 1510 or equivalent	
<b>Co-requisites:</b>		<i>N/A</i>	
<b>Required Text:</b>		<b>Hooyman, Nancy R. and H. Asuman Kiyak. 2007. <i>Social Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Perspective</i>. Boston: Allyn &amp; Bacon.</b>	
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>		<i>N/A</i>	
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>		UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fhg.follett.com">1012mgr@fhg.follett.com</a>	
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>			
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.			
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b> 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	- demonstrate an understanding of the social context older adults experience, such as their living arrangements, employment, family supports and discrimination; and
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	TIMELINE
Chapter 1: The Growth of Social Gerontology	8/30
Chapter 2: Historical and Cross-Cultural Issues in Aging	9/6
Chapter 3: The Social Consequences of Physical Aging <b>Work with Group</b>	9/13 (Online Meeting)
Chapter 4: Managing Chronic Diseases and Promoting Well-Being in Old Age Chapter 5: Cognitive Changes with Aging	9/20
<b>EXAM I</b>	<b>9/27</b>
Chapter 6: Personality and Mental Health in Old Age Chapter 7: Love, Intimacy, and Sexuality in Old Age	10/4 10/11
Chapter 8: Social Theories of Aging <b>Work with Group</b>	10/18 (Online Meeting)
Chapter 9: The Importance of Social Supports: Family, Friends, Neighbors, and Communities Chapter 10: Opportunities and Stresses of Informal Caregiving	<b>10/25</b>
Chapter 11: Living Arrangements and Social Interactions <b>EXAM II</b>	11/1
Chapter 12: Productive Aging: Paid and Nonpaid Roles and Activities <b>Work with Group</b>	11/8 Online Meeting
Chapter 13: Death, Dying, Bereavement, and Widowhood Chapter 14: The Resilience of Elders of Color	11/15 Online Meeting
Thanksgiving Break (no classes; university closed)	11/22

Chapter 16: Social Policies to Address Social Problems Chapter 17: Health and Long-Term Care Policy and Programs  <b>Group Presentations</b>	11/29
 <b>Paper Due</b>	12/6
<b>EXAM III</b>	<b>12/13</b>

## COURSE EVALUATION METHODS

### *I. Attendance*

Regular class attendance is expected. I will take attendance throughout the semester, and 10 points come from attendance. Some of the exam questions will be drawn from lectures, so it is essential that you attend every class in order to do well in this course. It is your responsibility to sign in during or right after the class period. Be ready when you come to class to discuss the readings/films and defend your points of view. The class sessions will be a mixture of didactic and interactive, with an opportunity for student participation and discussion. Students are expected to complete required reading by the date assigned and be prepared to share their thoughts on the reading with other members of the class.

### *II. In Class Assignments*

In class activities will worth of 20 points. These activities will include pop quizzes and several in class written assignments. If you are absent from the class you will not be given any opportunity to make-up the in-class assignments later.

Written Assignments: Short written assignments based on group discussions may be given during the class period over the semester and submitted for grading. When possible, written assignments will be shared in class and serve as the basis of class discussion. These assignments are evaluated based on:

- Evidence that course material has been read and understood
- Paper's organization and presentation
- Clarity of expression.

### *III. Online Discussions*

**Begin assignments early in case of technical difficulties.** For 4 times throughout the semester students will be asked a specific question or questions related to course materials. *These questions will be posted in the Blackboard.* 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 4X5=20 points.

### *IV. Group Project*

Students (4-5) will work in groups on a social issue, present the findings in class and submit a paper to the instructor. Your topic must be submitted in advance to the instructor for approval. The

purpose of this paper is to provide an up-to-date analysis of a current issue in aging which centers on a topic related to gerontology or aging in general. It is intended to inform those affected by a particular issue; therefore it must be balanced and should be relatively comprehensive. The paper is a research paper, intended to bring the best, most current information to bear on an important topic. It should synthesize and summarize existing information in clear and insightful ways; it will not contribute new, original data. This paper will be worth of 50 points. Detail instructions for the group presentation will be provided in class.

## V. Examinations

There will be three exams—each is worth 100 points. Examinations will cover the reading assignments, materials presented through lectures, handout, and class discussions. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Tests are made up of true/false and multiple choice. On exam day, students should be in their seats and taking the exam at least 15 minutes into the class period. If a student shows up later than this, he or she will be required to take a make-up. **\*Please note that make-up exams are all essay and are given during the week of final exams. They are ONLY given in the event of a DOCUMENTED excused absence. (Reasons for excused absence include hospitalization, death in the family, etc.) If you miss, be prepared to provide proof for having done so. It is in your best interest to not miss an exam.** (Prior arrangements can be made on an individual basis if you will be absent on exam day and you know that ahead of time).

To safeguard against any errors in recording your grades, it will be your responsibility to retain all exams and assignments returned to you. If there is a discrepancy, you will then have on hand the original score and based on this, the proper corrections can be made.

### Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
In Class Assignments	4 activities at 5 points each	20
Online Assignments	4 assignments at 5 points each	20
Attendance/Participation	10 Points	10
Group project	1 presentation and paper	50
Exam 1	100 points	100
Exam 2	100 points	100
Final Exam	100 points	100
<b>Total:</b>		<b>400</b>

#### Grade Determination: *(sample given)*

A = 360 – 400 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 320 – 359 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 280 – 319 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 240 – 279 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 239 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

### University Policies and Procedures

#### Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

*The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.*

**Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:**

*The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. 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 the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.*

**Assignment Policy:**

Turn in all assignments by hard copy on the due date listed to avoid any grading penalties. The instructor will retain all work turned in for credit. Students may review their exams and papers in the instructor's office during normal office hours. Office hours and location will be given at the first class session.

**Exam Policy:**

*Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).*

**Academic Integrity:**

*Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty 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 the Student Code of Conduct at [http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student\\_conduct/index.html](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html) for complete provisions of this code.*

**Bad Weather Policy:**

*On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.*

**Attendance and Participation Policy:**

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance 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 class. Be ready when you come to class to discuss the readings and defend your points of view. The class sessions will be a mixture of didactic and interactive instruction, with an opportunity for student participation and discussion. Students are expected to complete required reading by the date assigned and be prepared to share their thoughts on the reading with other members of the class. You are expected to

- Attend class regularly and on time
- Review chapter and handout in advance
- Have these materials available for use in class
- Be attentive to the lecture and videos shown in class
- Volunteer your insights and opinions
- Provide thoughtful responses when called upon

If you are having a problem with your performance in this course, please schedule an appointment with me as soon as possible so that together we can figure out what needs to be done. I am willing to help solve any problem you might experience involving this course, except failure to read the assigned materials or missing class.

Please do not call or email to let me know you are not going to be in class. (Don't call or email asking what you missed either.)

**Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

*Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. 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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.*

**Other Policies:**

- No cell phones will be allowed in class.
- No sleeping in class.
- Reading material that is not class related is prohibited (newspapers, magazines, etc.)
- Students should utilize the instructor's office hours unless they have made an appointment. This refers to both visits and telephone calls.
- Habitual tardiness, reading the paper, talking and other disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated.
- Make-up exams and incomplete (I) will be given if and only if a student is unable to complete their academic responsibilities for medical (disease or injury) or legal reasons (jury duty; U.S. military service) or other "extraordinary" reasons. These reasons must persist for a significant period of time to be considered grounds for an incomplete. Reasons for make-up / incomplete must be documented in writing on a legitimate letterhead with a verifiable signature.