

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2013
SYLLABUS

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| AGER 4780D AGING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 3 Hrs | | |
| Department of | Human Services | Division of Education and Human Services |
| Instructor Name: | <i>Iftekhhar Amin, Ph.D.</i> | |
| Office Location: | <i>Dallas Building 2 #327</i> | |
| Office Phone: | 972-338-1380 | |
| Email Address: | iftekhhar.amin@unt.edu | |
| Office Hours: | T 1:30-6:50PM, W 3:10-4:00 PM; | |
| Virtual Office Hours: | <i>None</i> | |
| Classroom Location: | Dallas 2 306 | |
| Class Meeting Days & Times: | T 7-9:50 PM | |
| Course Catalog Description: | <p>This course examines concepts and controversies in older adults. Students will become acquainted with the common social beliefs and attitudes that may affect aging. The student will be able to identify the link between the three broad domains of human aging: health care, socioeconomic trends and the life course. The student will also be made aware of biological and physiological changes that take place during the aging process. Equally important, this course allows the student to recognize emotional, psychological and physical aspects of aging. Upon completion of the course, the student will have gained an understanding of the aging process throughout the course of life. Students will be able to link the process of aging with telecommunications, biotechnology and genetics.</p> | |
| Prerequisites: | None | |
| Co-requisites: | None | |
| Required Text: | <p>Community Resources for Older Adults Programs and Services In An Era of Change</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robbyn R. Wacker, Karen A Roberto and Linda E. Piper</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sage Publications, Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Third Edition (Year, 2008)</p> | |
| Recommended Text and References: | Reading materials will be provided in class | |
| Access to Learning Resources: | <p>UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</p> <p>UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</p> | |
| Course Goals or Overview: | | |
| | <p>It is the goal of this course to understand the sociology of the aging process. The student is also expected to learn and gain a better understanding of the aging process as well as about existing community resources and services available to this identified target population.</p> | |

| Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of the semester students will be able to | |
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| 1 | Students should be able to demonstrate a comprehension of the aging process |
| 2 | Students should be able to identify the link between the three broad domains of human aging: health care, socioeconomic trends and the life course. |
| 3 | Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of how to link the processes of aging with identified community resources. |
| 4 | Students should be able to identify the physical aspects of aging along with attitudes and belief systems about aging. |
| 5 | Students should be able to demonstrate a strong ability to identify local, state and community resources for the elderly population. |
| 6 | Students will identify existing community resources and service providers. |

COURSE OUTLINE

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

Tentative Schedule* **CLASS READINGS & EXAM DATES**

| | Topic | Assignments, Exams |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| January 15 | Introduction | |
| January 22 | Chapters 1 | |
| January 29 | Chapters 2 & <i>Group Meeting</i> | |
| February 5 | Chapters 3 & 4 | |
| February 12 | <i>Online meeting</i> Chapters 5 | <i>Discussion 1 due</i> |
| February 19 | <i>Chapter 6 & 7</i> | |
| February 26 | <i>Online meeting</i> <i>Chapter 8</i> | <i>Discussion 2 due</i> |
| March 5 | Chapter 9 | |
| March 12 | <i>Midterm Exam</i> | |
| March 19 | Spring Break | |
| March 26 | <i>Online Meeting</i> <i>Chapters 10 & 11</i> | Discussion 3 |
| April 2 | Chapter 12 | Group Project Presentation |
| April 9 | <i>Online Meeting</i> <i>Chapters 13 & 14</i> | Discussion 4 Due |
| April 16 | Chapter 15 & 16 | Community Resource Paper due |
| April 23 | <i>Online Meeting</i> Chapters 17 & 18 | |
| April 30 | Chapter 19 | |
| May 7 | | Final Exam |

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

1. ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is expected. I will take attendance throughout the semester, and 10 points come from attendance and participation. 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. If you have to miss a class for some extraordinary circumstances, please make sure to get notes from your classmates.

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, 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. The class will be divided in groups for discussion. In group discussions, students are expected to share their learning, questions about the readings and the issues they examined in their assignments.

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.

2. IN CLASS ACTIVITIES

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.

Pop Quizzes: *Several pop quizzes will be given in class over the semester.*

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.

3. ONLINE CLASS DISCUSSIONS

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 FIVE DAYS to post your response, read statements from other students and submit comments to them. Discussion Area submissions are worth total 20 points. Here are some guidelines regarding your participation in these class discussions.

1. For each question or questions that I've designated for a particular chapter, submit your well-considered response. Then, take a look at what others have said on the topic. Respond to at least TWO of your fellow students with at least one comment/question regarding something they have said.
2. As far as evaluating your discussion responses, I will be interested in whether a response shows an understanding of the concepts/theories covered in course materials or discussed in the class. Applying these concepts accurately shows your familiarity with the reading as well as your ability

to apply it. Avoid simply repeating what others have already said in their responses. Take some time to offer different examples or ways of analyzing the issue. Also, it's important to remember that this isn't a talk show where it's adequate to simply state your personal opinion. Earning an "A" on the discussions requires going beyond the minimal requirements of the assignment.

3. Remember, this isn't The Jerry Springer Show. Occasionally, it's apparent that a response is meant to be cute or funny, but not serious and thoughtful. I'm not looking for comedic talent. The discussions require more than having a conversation with your colleagues in the class.
4. I strongly recommend that you take the time to compose your discussion response (e.g., in your software program like Microsoft Word or Works), save it and then post it in the Discussion Area. Always keep a copy of your discussion responses in case of a technical problem on the course website.

4. SERVICE LEARNING GROUP PROJECT

Students (2-3) will work in groups on a course related issue, present the findings in class and submit a paper to the instructor. Students will meet at the UNTD Community Education and Engagement House (CEEP) for group presentation. 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 program or service for elderly. 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 project will be worth of 30 points. Detail instructions for the group presentation will be provided in class.

5. COMMUNITY RESOURCE PAPER

Students will be responsible for writing a two-page paper on a local social service / non-profit agency in the community. This paper should be typed in a double spaced format. Students will choose the agency / organization at the second class session and will inform the instructor on which agency he / she shall be responsible.

6. EXAMS

There will be two exams, a midterm exam and a final examination.

| Instrument | Value (points or percentages) | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Group project | 1 project at 30 points | 30 |
| Community Resource Paper | 20 points | 20 |
| Attendance/participation | 10 points | 10 |
| In Class Activities | 20 Points | 20 |
| Four online discussions | 4 discussions at 5 points each | 20 |
| Exam 1 | 100 points | 100 |
| Exam 2 | 100 points | 100 |
| Total: | | 300 |

Grading Matrix:

Grade Determination:

- A = 270– 300 pts; i.e. 90% or better
- B = 240 – 267 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %
- C = 210 – 137 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %
- D = 180 –207 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %
- F = 179 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures**Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from this office. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. Disability Services is located in the Student Life Office in DAL2, Suite 200 and is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is (972) 338-1775.

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:

If you are unable to submit the assignments due to serious illness where you are physically incapacitated (e.g., hospitalized), medical documentation is required to resolve the missed assignment. *Be sure to speak with me immediately if you fail to meet the assignment submission deadline.*

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). If you are unable to take an exam due to serious illness where you are physically incapacitated (e.g., hospitalized), medical documentation is required to resolve the missed exam. *Be sure to speak with me immediately if you miss an exam. Remember, you must submit official documentation in order for this policy to apply to you.*

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 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. 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. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

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.

Optional Policies:

- *Use of WebCT/Blackboard: **Review the course website several times per week, if not daily.*** Visiting the website frequently will familiarize you with the resources available on the site as well as alert you to any changes or additions to the website (e.g., possible changes to the syllabus, due date reminders posted in the calendar, instructions for discussions).
- *Use of Cell Phones & other Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom:* Not allowed
- *Food and Drink in the Classroom:* Eating during class is not allowed.
- *Use of Laptops:* You can use Laptops but I deserve the right to randomly ask you to show me your notes if you use your laptop during the class time.
- *Grade of Incomplete:* You should discuss with me in advance if an “I” has to be assigned.
- Please allow me, the instructor, with **48 hours** to respond to e-mail messages.