

GERO 495: Global Aging

Course Syllabus Overview

Spring 2015

Instructor:	Dr. Kelly Fitzgerald
Email:	kelly.fitzgerald@wku.edu
Office Hours:	By appointment via Skype
Skype:	drkfitz
Class Meeting Time & Place:	Asynchronous, online via Blackboard
Required Text:	<u>Global Aging: Comparative Perspectives on Aging and the Life Course</u> , (2014). By S. Kunkel, J.S. Brown, & F. Whittington.
Additional Reading:	Posted to Blackboard.

Course Rationale: This course will serve as an introduction to population aging around the world. Throughout the semester, you will become familiar with how people age differently in various cultures and how individuals, governments, and organizations are and will need to change policies and programs to meet the needs of the increasing number of older adults.

Course Objectives: Successful completion of the course will enable students to:

1. Discuss their understanding of how the global population is aging;
2. Compare how societies are aging (recognizing and understanding similarities and differences); and
3. Describe the various ways in which different societies are currently preparing for an older population.

Credit Hours: 3

Course Information:

- A calendar of assignments, instructions and due dates will be available on Blackboard the first day of the term.
- Students are expected to submit exams, assignments, and discussion board posts by the due date and time. With an online course, it is quite easy to slip behind if you do not stay current with your work. Therefore late submissions will be counted as 0 points for all graded material if posted/submitted late. Make-up tests will be administered only to students who can provide proof of death in the family, extreme illness (which means a note from the physician is required) or some other extreme circumstance.
- The class will include discussions on possible controversial topics. The student is free to express personal opinions and experiences, but also expected to respect the opinions and experiences of others. We will enjoy the right to “agree to disagree”.

Classroom Environment:

- All students taking this course are expected to have read policies regarding **academic integrity**: <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/>. Please be aware that plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. The penalty for plagiarism will be a zero for the assignment. If you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask me! Furthermore, cheating on exams and/or assignments will not be tolerated, and the penalty is an automatic “0” for the test or an “F” in the course. This penalty works both ways. This means that if you copy someone else’s work OR allow someone else to copy your work then it is an automatic zero. Do not put yourself in this unfortunate situation—risking a poor grade does not begin to compare with getting an “F” for the entire course. Be advised that I will not hesitate to enforce this policy if necessary. This applies to all assignments including discussion board postings.
- In compliance with university policy, **students with disabilities** who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. . <http://www.wku.edu/sds/> Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Graded Assignments:

Details about the following will be provided on Blackboard when the course opens at the beginning of the term.

1. On-Line Discussion Questions

There will be 10 opportunities to discuss questions posted on the “Discussion Board” on Blackboard. Complete all 10 (at 10 points each) for a maximum of 100 points.

2. Written Assignments

There will be 4 opportunities to submit short written assignments to the "Assignment" section on Blackboard. Complete all four (at 100 points each) for a maximum of 400 points.

3. Midterm and Final Exam

A midterm and final (non-accumulative) exam will be given. These exams will comprise of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Complete both (at 100 points each) for a maximum of 200 points.

Course Grade Summary:

ASSIGNMENTS:
On-Line Discussion Questions (x10 = 100 points)
Written Assignments (x 4 = 400 points)
Midterm Exam (100 points)
Final Exam (100 points)
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 700 points

GRADING SCALE:
A (700-630 points)
B (629-560 points)
C (559-490 points)
D (489-420 points)
F (419 points and below)