

SYLLABUS Gerontology 485 700

Spring 2016

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Not on campus. Available via phone by appointment and regularly via email.

Course Description

This capstone experience provides a structured opportunity for gerontology minors to integrate knowledge and experiences from course work and explore a variety of theoretical, methodological, and professional issues in gerontology while conducting an applied gerontology project.

Course Text

Gawande, Atul. (2014), *Being Mortal*, New York: Henry Holt and Company. Required.

Grabinski, C, J. (2014), *101+ Careers in Gerontology, Second Edition*, New York: Springer. Recommended, not required.

Other Items Needed

- Access to a computer (preferably your own) with a reliable Internet connection. You should not use iPads, mobile devices, iPhones, etc. for test taking or for Tegrity assignments. Connections are not stable enough to give consistent success for completion.
- Microsoft Word or other word processing software that saves files in .doc, .docx, or .rtf file format
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free download from Adobe.com)

Course Overview

The primary goal of this class is to allow students to integrate what they have learned in gerontology with a focus on how those concepts, ideas, theories, and practical experiences relate to their personal, professional or higher education goals. In other words, in concert with the Instructor, you will have an *opportunity to choose an area of personal interest* in gerontology and carryout an applied research project around it. It is also an opportunity to prepare portfolio materials for grad school or your first position after graduation.

Course Objectives

1. Demonstrate understanding of theoretical perspectives related to the study of aging.
2. Construct a short project that demonstrates aspects of previous courses in aging as applied to real world issues. Project should include chosen topic literature review, data analysis (if applicable) and presentation.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of the older population and an appreciation of the impact of rural/urban differences, culture, race, ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, and gender on aging.
4. Apply professional and ethical perspectives to career planning in the field of aging.

Evaluation

The grade for this course will be based on the following:

Discussion Board participation	10%
CITI Certification	10%
E- Portfolio	15%
Applied Project Updates	10%
Presentation of Applied Project	10%
Applied Project	45%

Assignments

1. CITI Certification. All students must either complete or show evidence of successful completion of the CITI ethics certification, basic and Social Science 1 researcher modules. See the Office of Compliance (University Research) for more details.
2. E-portfolio.
 - *Intellectual Biography*. Almost all graduate or professional programs require a personal statement or “intellectual biography” that explains what brought you to this place in your scholarly/professional life and where you want to go from here. For job seekers, this biography will assist you when asked to write similar personal statements for a professional position and when interviewed for a position. 1 to 1 ½ pages suggested.
 - *Plan for Continuing Education and Professional Development*. 1 page suggested.
 - Gerontology Course Work Completed: List all of the gerontology (and aging-related) coursework you have completed to date.
 - Plan for Continuing Education and Professional Development: How do you intend to continue to develop your understanding and expertise in the areas of knowledge that are central to your goals and dreams?
 - *Resume & Cover Letter*. You will make a visit to the WKU Career Center, then write (or revise) a resume and cover letter that will assist you in your professional development as you prepare for graduate school and/or a career.

3. Applied Project & Presentation. In discussion with the Instructor, you will select a topic from an area of aging that is of particular interest to you and examine it from a multidisciplinary perspective, e.g., biological, health, psychological, sociological, anthropological, etc. Regular updates on your progress will be posted and feedback given in Discussion Board formats as well as via email. Output from the project will include:
- Regular updates on your project progress
 - An 8 to 10 page essay (double-spaced) that documents what you did
 - Purpose of project and target audience
 - Short literature review (about 1/3 of total paper)
 - Description of project design, e.g., methods, steps, resources
 - Discussion of findings/results and their implications, i.e., your conclusion
 - Things you would do differently
 - Reference list used to develop your project (6 to 10 references suggested)
 - Samples of any collateral materials you developed, e.g., posters, brochures, information flyers, etc.
 - Because this is an online course, you will use Mediasite as the vehicle for presentation of the project to the Instructor. 10-12 minutes suggested.

GUIDELINES for papers: Double-spaced, 12-point font size, page numbering, include a formal title page. Use spell and grammar check before submitting.

Use of Technology

This is an online course where all required work is to be completed online through the use of Blackboard (Bb) and the Internet. If you do not know how to use Blackboard, tutorials are available online.

Blackboard Help/WKU IT Help Desk

270-745-7000

Blackboard Student User Training

If you have not used Blackboard a lot, or if this is your first online class, I highly recommend signing up for and completing the Blackboard Student User Training. These are topical modules that even those who have used Blackboard a lot report to be helpful.

To sign up, go to Blackboard and sign in, and click the IT TRAINING tab (top, toward the right, black with white writing). Look for IT Blackboard Student User Training... you will gain instant access upon signing up. Although there is no credit given for this training and it is not required for the class, it could be very helpful for you and important for your success.

WKU Distance Learning Student Resource Center

You may also want to visit the [WKU Student Resource Center](http://www.wku.edu/online/src/) at <http://www.wku.edu/online/src/>

Attendance Policy

Online attendance is monitored. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the class if he/she does not wish to continue enrollment once the Syllabus Quiz has been attempted.

Student Email and Blackboard Announcements

All students should check their WKU email accounts at least weekly and the Blackboard course Announcements page each time they log in. New announcements will appear at the top of the page, so please read until you get to information you already know.

Classroom Environment

Academic Integrity

All students taking this course are expected to have read policies regarding Academic Integrity. To read policies regarding [Academic Integrity](http://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php) go to www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php

The penalty for cheating on assignments is an automatic "0" for the assignment or an "F" in the course. This applies to all assignments including Discussion Board posts.

Plagiarism

All students taking this course are expected to have read policies regarding Plagiarism. To read policies regarding [Plagiarism](http://www.wku.edu/csa/policies/plagiarism.php) go to www.wku.edu/csa/policies/plagiarism.php

Student work may be checked using plagiarism software. The penalty for plagiarism will be a zero for the assignment.

Office for Student Disability Services

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 Downing University Center A-200. For more information about [Student Disability Services](http://www.wku.edu/sds) go to www.wku.edu/sds Their phone number is 270-745-5004; TDD is 270-745-3030.

Per university policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the OFSDS.

Extended Campus Library Services

For students taking online courses, this office will copy citation and pull library books, sending them through the mail at no cost to the student. Students must return the library books themselves. They also have a courier service to the extended campuses. For more information on [Extended Campus Library Services](http://www.wku.edu/library/dlps/extended_campus/index.php) go to www.wku.edu/library/dlps/extended_campus/index.php

Writing Center Assistance

The Writing Center is located in Cherry Hall 123 on the Bowling Green campus and also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance or who cannot visit during our operating hours. Writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can help you brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper for you. See instructions for making online or face-to-face appointments at the [Writing Center](http://www.wku.edu/writingcenter) at www.wku.edu/writingcenter. You can also call (270) 745-5719 during operating hours listed on the website for help scheduling an appointment.

The Learning Center (TLC)

Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing University Center, A330) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC @ DUC offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and eight academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area (with side rooms designated for peer-to-peer tutoring) and offers a thirty-two machine Dell computer lab to complete academic coursework. Additionally, TLC has three satellite locations. Each satellite location is a quiet study center and is equipped with a small computer lab. These satellite locations are located in Douglas Keen Hall, McCormack Hall, and Pearce Ford Tower. Please call TLC @ DUC at (270) 745-6254 for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. [The Learning Center website](http://www.wku.edu/tlc) is www.wku.edu/tlc