

GERO 100 (Web): Introduction to the Aging Experience

Fall 2017

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Office Hours: By appointment
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This class introduces you to contemporary issues in aging. Throughout the semester, you will become familiar with key facts, theories and concepts to help you reflect on the most important topics confronting our aging society. The fun and challenge of this class will be for you to decide how to resolve these issues in a well-reasoned and argued manner.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the social, psychological, and physical dimensions of aging. We will examine the aging process experienced by the individual and how the aging of the population affects our society as a whole. By the end of the class, you will be able to:

1. Identify myths and stereotypes of aging and describe how these shape attitudes and policy toward older adults.
2. Describe demographic changes occurring in the U.S. and other countries, and explain the implications for society.
3. Compare theoretical perspectives that explain the biological, psychological, and social aspects of aging.
4. Describe normal age-related changes in the physiological, psychological, sexual, and social domains.
5. Recognize sources of diversity in the aging experience, and describe the impact of gender identity, race, sexual orientation, culture, and socioeconomic status on older people.
6. Identify current issues affecting older adults, and describe existing policies and programs that address these.

REQUIRED BOOKS

1. Novak, Mark. *Issues in Aging* (3rd edition). Pearson. (Copyright 2012).
2. Izzo, John. *The Five Secrets You Must Discover Before You Die*
3. Supplemental readings will be available through Blackboard.

COURSE BLACKBOARD WEBSITE

This course is completely conducted online and is asynchronous. This means that students complete the coursework by following the course schedule but according to their own time schedule. For example, reading assignments must be completed in the week they are assigned. There will be important course information on the course Blackboard website. A calendar of assignments, instructions and due dates will be available on Blackboard on the first day of class. Course documents such as the syllabus, study guides, and additional readings will also be available.

You will use the Blackboard website to submit your assignments, take your quizzes and tests and view your grades. You are required to check this website each week for new information about course work or changes in the syllabus. Announcements and reminders will be made on Monday mornings of each module week. Most assignments, tests, discussion board posts and quizzes are due on Sunday, but it is the student's responsibility to check the website for actual due dates.

EVALUATION

The final course grade will be determined based on the following:

<u>Reading Quizzes</u>	<u>150 Points</u>
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5 quizzes each worth 30 points

To ensure that everyone is keeping up with the textbook readings and understanding the basic content, reading quizzes will be given throughout the semester.

<u>Discussion Board Posts</u>	<u>100 Points</u>
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10 discussion board posts each worth 10 points

One of the goals of the course is for students to reflect on the issues and information that are presented in the week's reading and lecture material. The discussion board assignments are a way for our online community to do that with each other. Students are expected to actively participate with the instructor and others in the discussion board forums.

<u>Essay: Current Event Issue Paper</u>	<u>100 Points</u>
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You are required to write a short research paper discussing a current issue impacting older adults. The research will be framed around a current event topic covered in the news.

<u>Essay: Older Adult Interview</u>	<u>100 Points</u>
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You are required to submit a paper describing the insights you gained from an interview you will do with an older adult.

<u>Plagiarism Assignment</u>	<u>20 Points</u>
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Academic integrity is of upmost importance in all your academic pursuits. As part of this course, you will be required to complete an assignment to learn more about what plagiarism looks like and how you can avoid doing this in your writing assignments.

COURSE GRADE SUMMARY

Reading Quizzes (5 x 30 = 150 points)
Discussion Board Posts (10 x 10 = 100 points)
Essay Assignments (2 x 100 = 200 points)
Plagiarism Assignment (20 points)
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 470 points

GRADING SCALE:

Grades are determined by dividing total points by 4.70 and applying the following scale: A (90 - 100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (< 60).