

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: SO 205 Introduction to Gerontology

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: EN 060, SO 201

Description This course delineates the realities of aging through the comprehensive exploration of the social, psychological and physiological issues associated with the aging process. For each topic discussed, the developmental stages of early, middle, late and their various characteristics are explored, as they impact upon the ethos of aging in the U.S.A.

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify several factors which lead to and perpetuate the abundant myths about the aged
- Discuss sociological and psychological theories of aging
- Identify sex physiological changes in the aging individual
- Identify and discuss ten cultural similarities and differences within the aged cohort which impact upon individual values and norms
- Discuss the impact that our increasing aging population will have on future generations, economic, social policy and values and decisions

Topical Outline:

- The Growth of Social Gerontology
- Aging in Other Countries and Across Cultures in the United States
- The Social Consequences of Physical Aging
- Managing Chronic Diseases and Promoting Well-Being in Old Age
- Cognitive Changes with Aging
- Personality and Mental Health in Old Age
- Love, Intimacy, and Sexuality in Old Age
- Social Theories of Aging
- The Importance of Social Supports: Family, Friends, Neighbors, and Communities
- Opportunities and Challenges of Informal Caregiving
- Living Arrangements and Social Interactions
- Productive Aging: Paid and Nonpaid Roles and Activities
- Death, Dying, Bereavement, and Widowhood
- The Resilience of Elders of Color
- The Resilience of Older Women
- Social Policies to Address Social Problems

- Health and Long-Term Care Policy and Programs

Text: Hooyman, Nancy R. & Kiyak, A. Asuman (2011). *Social Gerontology* (9th ed.). Pearson.

Student Assessment: Assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) **BEFORE** withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.