

SOC 428/SOC5428 Aging in Modern Society 3.0 Semester Hours Credit

This course is a survey of developmental factors and social problems of aging individuals and groups in contemporary society.

Aging is a predictable process, influenced by our particular life experiences in the society in which we live. The study of aging involves knowledge of biology, economics, social policy, psychology, sociology, and social work theory. We must come to understand the processes involved in aging in order to enhance our knowledge and skills in working with elders, whether or not this will be our primary job focus, as we continue to see the steady increase in the number of elders in our society. The Christian values of Mississippi College also support the compassion and respect for elders that this increased understanding will provide.

Objectives for this course are:

- To develop understanding of aging as an individual biological and psychological process
- To develop understanding of aging as a social process within the context of societal systems such as employment, health care, government support
- To learn the impact that aging has on families and communities
- To learn and dispel myths and examine realities related to ageism
- To utilize the theories and research available to understand social gerontology as a field of study relevant to sociology, social work, and family studies

This class will utilize required reading in the text and outside resources as assigned, in addition to lecture, discussion, and individual/ small group activity. Students should be prepared to utilize resources in the Leland Speed library from reserved readings and internet access. Specific internet sites will also be assigned for resource information.

Grades will be decided through tests, class participation, attendance, and papers as assigned. Tests will consist of multiple choice and discussion questions. All papers shall be typed or printed legibly; any paper that cannot be read will be returned. All late papers will be graded one letter grade lower for each subsequent class period that it is late. Daily activities in class cannot be made up; any test missed may be made up as long as documentation of the serious incident or illness is provided upon return to class. Similar documentation is required for an absence to be excused; however, in keeping with policy of MC, students missing more than a total of 8 classes will receive a failing grade for the course. It is strongly suggested that students make every effort to attend class, and should note that if 6 absences are reached notice will be sent to the registrar's office of such. You are also at risk of a lower grade for the course of up to one letter grade per each week of absences that you have.

Your grade will be based on the following assessment:

Mid term exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Other	30%
(Daily grades, papers, class participation)	

The following grading scale will be used:

95-100	A
85-94	B
75-84	C

65-74 D
64 and below F

Participating in all class activities is expected. You are required to sign the roll at the beginning of each class.

If you need any form of special assistance in order to participate in class or take tests, please contact Dr. Buddy Wagner in the Counseling and Testing Officer, Rm. 106 Lowrey Hall, 925.3354.

Mississippi College Policy number 2.19 focuses on the expectation of honesty in all its students. It is the student's ultimate responsibility to observe the principles of academic integrity in all aspects of their conduct. As such, the following will not be tolerated and can result in a failing grade in the course or possible dismissal: any form of cheating on tests or assignments; plagiarism (knowingly submitting another's work or wording as one's own in any document); forgery, alteration or misuse in any way of college documents; participation in unauthorized access to college documents; providing false or misleading information related to absences, tardiness, or identity.

Required text: Social Gerontology Today: An Introduction by Elizabeth W. Markson; Roxbury Publishing Co., Los Angeles, CA; 2003.