

THE SOCIOLOGY OF AGING

SOC 3750

INSTRUCTOR:

Emily “Beth” Wilson
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the social context in which aging occurs, the social implications of aging, and attendant social policy issues. It considers both individual and societal aging using historical and cross-cultural approaches. It will investigate the complexity inherent in the aging process from multidisciplinary angles including the biology/physiology, psychology and sociology of aging.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Sociology courses contribute collectively to form major goals of the Sociology Program. In these courses students learn to: (1) communicate effectively; (2) think critically, analytically, and reason logically about social issues and/or social problems; (3) understand and use sociological principles, concepts, and theories to examine social behavior and issues, and (4) understand and review the application of sociological methods to social behavior and issues. Specific quizzes, exams and/or assignments in this course will assess students learning in one or more of the above objectives.

COURSE RESOURCES:

Textbook(s)

Issues in Aging. Mark Novak; Allyn & Bacon, 3rd Ed. 2012; 0-205-83195-8.

Additional Readings

Readings will be taken from an array of sources: peer-reviewed journals and any other relevant texts/medium. Most readings will be available in Canvas in .pdf format. Other readings will be available online, with a hyperlink provided.

COURSE ACTIVITIES:

This course has been created in a way that facilitates self-paced learning! In other words, you can go as quickly or slowly as you like BUT all work must be completed by the last day of the semester.

Readings

We will read approximately three chapters from the textbook and one or two Additional Readings with each module, or approximately one chapter each week. *Although you will not be quizzed specifically on FYIs, the information supplements the required material and will further your understanding of course principles (please check them out!)*

Quizzes

There are 5 quizzes worth 140 points each (14 questions @ 10 points a piece.) It is your responsibility to take the quizzes when they are available! I will make them **available from the second week of class until the last day of class**. They will only be available during these times. You will have 20 minutes to take each quiz, which will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The quiz questions come from: *My PowerPoint Lessons* and the Reading Material (any required reading material and the textbook chapters mentioned in the Modules). If this is your first online course experience, I suggest taking the practice quiz so that you can get a feel for the Quiz tool and time limits.

In preparation for the quizzes please study the PowerPoint Lessons, the Textbook and the Glossary as any current information will be provided only to supplement the course (you will not be quizzed on new material posted throughout the semester). Should you note that the answer to a quiz question refers to the wrong page number in the textbook please let me know, as some page number references changes between the 1st and 2nd editions.

Based on student feedback I will allow you to retake one quiz (excluding the comprehensive exam). Just use the mail tool in this course to make the request, and use this option wisely. In other words, please complete all of the quizzes before requesting your one allowable retake.

Exams

The Comprehensive Exam is worth 150 points (15 questions @ 10 points apiece,) and will comprehensively cover the contents of this course. You will have 30 minutes to take this exam, which will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

Discussions

There are 3 graded Discussion Assignments that are due by the last day of the semester, but please do them sooner rather than later so that the class can exchange feedback if/when interested. Each is worth 50 points (a total of 150) and points will be awarded based on originality, content and substance. We will also use the Discussion tool as a way to share communication with each other regarding relevant course information. Things we post here can be viewed (and responded to) by any classmate and myself, and I reserve the right to delete anything that I feel is inappropriate or disrespectful.

Modules (or Course Content)

I have broken the materials and quizzes into five modules/sections. This is where you will find my PowerPoint Lessons and the list of any required readings. Anything you link to with an FYI in front of it - is for your information only (meaning you will not be quizzed on this material.) I may continue to add FYI links to this course throughout the semester. I encourage you to check this information out!

Module One:

Please read Text chapters 1 and 2 as part of this Module

Lesson 1: An Introduction to the Sociological Study of Aging

Lesson 2: Sociological Study Methods & Theories of Aging

Lesson 3: Present Day Attitudes toward Aging

Quiz #1

Module Two:

Please read Text chapters 3, 6 and 10 as part of this Module

Lesson 4: Demography: the Importance of Age

Lesson 5: Aging Demographics/Societies

Lesson 6: Race/Ethnicity & Housing/Transportation

Quiz #2

Module Three:

Please read Text chapters 4, 5 and 7 as part of this Module

Lesson 7: Health: Biological and Psychological

Lesson 8: The Life Course and Human/Lifespan Development

Lesson 9: Health Care

Quiz #3

Module Four:

Please read Text chapters 9, 11 and 14 as part of this Module

Lesson 10: Retirement and Work

Lesson 11: Post Retirement Activity

Lesson 12: Death and Dying

Quiz #4

(Note the REQUIRED READING: Today's Retired Individual; A Look at Social Meaning - you WILL be quizzed on this material.)

Module Five:

Please read Text chapters 8, 12, 13 and 15 as part of this Module

Lesson 13: Money/Finance/Economics

Lesson 14: Aging and Family Life

Lesson 15: The Politics of Aging

Quiz #5

(Comprehensive Exam)

GRADING:

Course Breakdown: There are 3 Discussions, 5 quizzes and a comprehensive exam; none of these are proctored, so you should be able to take them from any computer that can access the course. The material has been broken into five different modules; you can link to my PowerPoint Lessons and the corresponding Readings and Quizzes via the Modules link to the left of your screen or the Course Content link on the Homepage. Please note you will not receive any points for completing the Practice Quiz. I will however, add 3% in points to your overall score for completing the course evaluation. (I do not administer the course evaluation - so please watch for it to become available, complete it while it is available, and contact the Distance Ed. folks should you have any questions.)

Component	Points
Quiz 1	140
Quiz 2	140
Quiz 3	140
Quiz 4	140
Quiz 5	140
Comprehensive Exam	150
Discussions	150
Total Points	1000

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A 940-1000 A- 900-930 B+ 860-890 B 830-850 B- 800-820 C+ 760-790 C 730-750

C- 700-720 D+ 660-690 D 600-650 F 590 or below

COURSE POLICIES:

Instructor and Student Feedback/Communication

I will post and read in the Discussions tool occasionally (as mentioned above). I will use the Announcements tool to communicate changes to the course and other course information. I will contact collective and individual students via the Canvas **Mail tool**. My preferred method of communication with individual students is via this email. If you are not yet comfortable using the Canvas Mail please send your email to bethwilso@gmail.com. I will respond to email **within two week days** (Monday - Friday) and I welcome all feedback on the course!

If you experience a legitimate emergency (according to my standards) which will prevent you from completing required coursework on time, I expect you to communicate with me at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Please state the nature of the emergency, and when you expect to turn in the coursework.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & PROCEDURES:

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. [Faculty Code Policy #403](#) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

Academic Integrity - "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

[The Honor Pledge](#) : To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
 - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"
 - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
 - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
 - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
 - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;

- Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at [\(435\) 797-1266](tel:4357971266).

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Please contact the DRC prior to or as early in the semester as possible. Alternate formats for course content are available with advanced notice.

Contacting the Disability Resource Center (DRC):

- On Campus: Room 101 of the University Inn
- Phone: [435-797-2444](tel:4357972444)
- Website: <http://www.usu.edu/drc/>

Disability related resources for current students:

- [DRC Student Handbook](#)
- [Deaf and Hard of Hearing Student Handbook](#)
- [Disability Related Scholarships](#)
- [Campus Resources](#)
- [Documentation Guidelines](#)
- [Online Resources for Students with Disabilities](#)

Diversity Statement

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances,

but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

- Michelle Bogdan, Director of Access and Diversity Center:
[\(435\) 797-1728](tel:4357971728), michelle.bogdan@usu.edu
- James Morales, Vice President of Student Services:
[\(435\) 797-1712](tel:4357971712), james.morales@usu.edu
- Brooke Lambert, LGBTQA Program Coordinator, Access and Diversity Center:
[\(435\) 797-1164](tel:4357971164), brooke.lambert@usu.edu
- Daryn Frischknecht, Student Advocate:
[\(435\) 797-7460](tel:4357977460)

You can learn more about your student rights by visiting <http://www.usu.edu/student-services/studentcode>.

Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: [Article VII. Grievances](#).

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Student Code](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
- [USU Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy](#)