

Kennesaw State University
Introduction to Gerontology
SOCI 3310 / 01

Instructor: **Dr. Judy Brown-Allen**
Office Hours: **Are available when requested before or after classes**
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Class Time: Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Class Location: NSS Bldg. room 2021

I. Required Text (s) Materials:

All students are required to buy the textbook for this course. The textbook is "Aging the Individual and Society" by Susan M. Hillier and Georgia M. Barrow (10th Edition)

II. Required Reading Assignments:

Please read Chapter One of the required text before the start of the first class Aging in America. Further reading material (s) may be assigned by the Instructor.

III. Course Description:

- Introduction to the multi-disciplinary field of gerontology which provides an overview of the sociology, psychology, and the physiology of aging. Students will consider research and theories of aging as well as participate in field trip experiences in gerontological settings. A key goal is to develop a more realistic perception of the aging process.
- *Prerequisites:* SOCI 1101 or PSYC 1101
- *Credits:* 3-0-3

IV. Instructional Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. Define life course perspective and describe how age/period/gender, race and ethnicity influence the life course.
2. Understand how the growth in the demographics of the older population impacts various aspects of our society, past, present and future.
3. Critically review studies of older people and understand how these studies can be used to improve the health and well-being of society as a whole.
4. Differentiate between normal changes in functioning due to aging and pathological changes leading to disease.
5. Describe how previous Role Flexibility affects a person's adaptation to old age.
6. Demonstrate how sensory losses affect the individual.
7. Describe the effects of stereotypes on older persons and how stereotypes may limit access to jobs, medical care or a person's independence.
8. Give examples of how aging affects intelligence, both positively and negatively.
9. Develop a personal definition of successful aging and apply it.
10. Examine social policies, including Social Security, Medicare, long-term care systems, employment, and age discrimination.

Instructor will lecture, lead discussions, and provide relevant examples and other assistance to students in an effort to help them grasp complex materials. Instructor will provide students with prompt feedback on examinations and written assignments, and be available for conferences with students. Instructor meet with students before or after class or have them make an office appointment, and adhere to all other official regulations, and will perform administrative functions in accordance there with. And instructor will construct and implement measures to evaluate whether this course fulfills its objectives.

V. Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the field of gerontology and its social implications. Students will delve into their own perceptions of aging and how their personal experiences and societal attitudes have influenced these perceptions. An important aspect of this class will be to create an awareness of aging issues through weekly lectures of how the news media reports issues affecting older Americans. Interwoven throughout the class will be the life course perspective on aging, demonstrating how income, education, ethnicity and gender affect the aging process and a person's lifetime choices. Students will learn about the normal aging process and about conditions

that appear to be part of the "aging process" but may be pathological in nature. Students will determine how to make lifestyle changes to improve their chances of a healthy old age. Social support systems and their influence on the aging individual will be examined. Social aging policies will be introduced, including the Older Americans Act, Social Security, Medicare, and the long-term care system. Students will analyze both the negative and positive impact of these policies and the part advocates play in the process. At the conclusion of the class, students will explore their own career plans and how their newly acquired knowledge in gerontology can advance these plans.

VI. Academic Integrity:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the undergraduate and graduate Catalogs. Section II of this Code addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

VI. Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend all class meetings, and to arrive on time (Students will not be allowed to enter the classroom after the lecture has begun for 30 minutes after the class' official beginning time). Students may enter after the break for the second half of the class only if a scheduled break is taken during the course of the class.

VII. Evaluation and Grading Procedures:

Satisfactory performance on both in class and out of class assignments and examinations is required to obtain a grade of "C" or better in this course. Quizzes, both announced and unannounced, examinations, class participation, and writing assignments **make-up quizzes will not be given. Examinations may be made up only if an official excused absence in writing is obtained from the office.** The final grade is based on the following categories and grade weights:

Evaluation and Grading Policies are provided. Grade distribution must be included. Describe the exams and/or assignments that will be required. Describe how these will be evaluated and weighed to compute a final grade in the course. Suggestion: One major assignment, essay, or exam grade should be reported to students prior to the midterm deadline for withdrawing from the course without penalty

Components of Students' Grades

1. Attendance and Class Participation	25%
2. Unit Test (combined)	25%
3. Written Assignments (combined)	25%
4. Comprehensive Final Examination	25%

VIII. Disability Clause

KSU provides support services for students with disabilities. These services are to provide accessibility and reasonable accommodation to individuals defined as disabled under Section 504 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disability Act of 1990. The definition of an individual with a disability is any condition that substantially limits one or more of life's major activities and is either permanent or temporary.

It is the student's responsibility to identify himself/herself as an individual with a disability. A qualified individual in the area of the identified disability must provide the documentation of the disability. This documentation must state how the disability creates a significant impact on the individual's academic performance; it should include suggested accommodations that are reasonable to provide in an academic setting.

Important Dates to Remember:

- The last day to withdraw without Academic Penalty is March 1, 2017**

- **SPRING BREAK April 1-7th, 2017**
 - Final Examinations Dates are from May 2nd through May 8th 2017
- Weekly Class Schedule:

- January 10th class Canceled due to snow delay
- January 12th Q & A Session about course requirements
Textbook, reading materials & Senior
Report Project Home Work Read 1, 2 & 3
- January 17th Lecture & Home Work Assignment on D2L
Fill in the blanks / Read Ch. 1, 2 & 3
- January 19th Lecture Continued & Sign up Calendar
For Senior Project dates
- January 24th Film (OGP) 1/2 Home Work Submit 25
Interview Questions on D2L by 11:59 p.m.
or late at midnight or after
Return graded Home Work Assignment
Ch. 1, 2 & 3 FB on D2L
- January 26th Complete Film (OGP) & Question 10 Quiz
- January 31st Continue Lecture & Return graded Quiz
Review for Unit Test One & Announce
Unit Test One date on 2/7/17
- February 2nd Senior Project Field Day Interviews Q & A

- February 7th Unit Test One given at the start of class
- February 9th Lecture & Home Work Assignment on D2L
Fill in the blanks Read Ch. 4, 5 & 6
- February 14th Senior Project Field Day Interviews Q & A
- February 16th Senior Project Reports & CP Evaluations
- February 21st Continue Lecture & Return Graded Home
Work Chapter 4, 5 & 6
- February 23rd Senior Project Reports & CP Evaluations
- February 28th Review for Unit Test Two
- March 2nd Senior Project Reports & CP Evaluations
Return graded Unit Test Two
- March 7th Unit Test Two & Home Work D2L
List 25 Items on your Bucket List using
Mini Paragraph Explanations (4 or more)
Sentences
- March 14th Film (TBL) FIRST ½ Home Work Assign.
On D2L Fill in the blanks Read Chapters
7, 8 & 9 due before 11:59 p.m. or late
After midnight
- March 16th Film (TBL) & 10 Question Quiz

- March 21st New Lecture & Return Graded work
- March 23rd Senior Project Reports & CP Evaluations
- March 28th Continue Lecture
- March 30th Senior Project Reports & CP Evaluations
- April 4th Guest Speakers Q & A Session
- April 6th Senior Project Reports & CP Evaluations
- April 11th Continue Lecture & In class Assignment
- April 13th Senior Project Reports & CP Evaluations
- April 18th 5 Stages of Death & Dying Film (TAM)
Documentary ½
- April 20th Senior Project Reports & CP Evaluations
- April 25th Final Grade Sheets Loaded onto D2L make
Two copies and bring one filled out and the
Other blank to be filled out in class. Binder
Checks
- April 27th Last day of class Final Review & Turn in
Binder

FINAL EXAMINATIONS (MAY 2ND THROUGH MAY 8TH)

CAMPUS POLICIES:

Required:

Note: Faculty may comply with the university policy on required syllabus components by inserting a web link to the corresponding university-hosted page into the syllabus, but are encouraged to put the full text of the required language into their syllabi in order to promote student awareness of the following campus policies

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Confidentiality and Privacy Statement (FERPA)

<http://enrollmentservices.kennesaw.edu/training/ferpa.php>

University – Student Rights Statement

<http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=2263>

Ethics Statement

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Sexual Harassment Statement

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Course Accessibility Statement (ADA statement)

<http://sss.kennesaw.edu/sds/institutional-policies.php>

Disruption of Campus Life Policy

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>