



University of Central Florida
School of Social Work

GEY 3001 OW61 – Gerontology: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

To access the course login at: <https://my.ucf.edu>

Instructor: **Kathryn Frahm, MSW**

Term: **Fall, 2008**

Office Phone: **407-823-2114**

Office Hours: **By appointment**

Email: **Use the Course Mail system to contact Ms. Frahm**

Credit Hours: **3**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of aging from an interdisciplinary perspective bridging social and behavioral sciences, nursing, social work, allied health, and natural sciences.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the semester students will be able to:

1. Define the scope of the field of gerontology as an interdisciplinary endeavor encompassing research, service, and public policy.
2. Understand the biological, psychological, and social factors associated with the process of human aging.
3. Display heightened self-awareness of their own aging process, including the ability to envision a personal future as an older adult and appreciation of intergenerational relationships.
4. Analyze the implications of the demographic imperative of a global aging society for long-term care and family caregivers while considering diverse cross-cultural values about aging.
5. Identify key political and economic issues associated with an aging society that affect older workers, the health care, and social service systems.
6. Discuss ongoing ethical controversies brought on by an aging population including end-of-life care decisions, and the distribution of economic, social, and health resources.
7. Articulate and defend positions on key controversies related to economic, social, and health aspects of aging through discussion forums and reaction papers.

LEARNING METHODS

A variety of web based instructional methods including tutorials, discussion forums, reaction papers, quizzes, interactive video and websites are employed in this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Moody, H.R. (2006). Aging: Concepts & controversies (5th Ed.), Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Students will be expected to utilize UCF library resources to search library databases for required readings. The following web sites which can help students find information, navigate through databases and learn how to use the library:

1. Library Instruction sessions - <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Instruction>
2. Library Research Tutorials - <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Instruction/LIToursTutorials.asp>
3. Streaming videos - <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Videos/Default.asp>
4. Research Guides - <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Guides/>
5. Ask a Librarian service - <http://library.ucf.edu/Ask/>
6. Consult with the librarian familiar with Social Work—Mr. Hal Mendolsohn

The UCF Libraries has a full array of paper and electronic resources available for students and their research needs.

In addition to paper copies of books and journals, UCF students have the ability to access a vast selection of journals and books in electronic format while on or off campus. The web address to the library's catalog is <http://library.ucf.edu/>. The Ask A Librarian service provides students the ability to contact a library professional either by phone, on-line chat or email, and ask for assistance on "how to" locate, research, and obtain library materials. The web address for Ask A Librarian is <http://library.ucf.edu/Ask/>. A series of streaming videos, showing students how to search for a book or journal article, has been developed and are available at <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Videos/Default.asp>. Research Guides for different majors, that list books, journals, databases, and web sites have been developed and are available in electronic format at <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Guides/>. Another service to help students conduct library research is called Research Consultation. After a student has conducted his/her research and is in need of additional information, s/he can work with a librarian to locate material with the help of his/her expert searching capabilities. To set-up a Research Consultation, students can either come into the library and sign-up at the Reference Desk or call the library Reference Office at 407-823-5880. Finally, students are always encouraged to visit the library and ask a Reference Librarian how best to conduct one's research. If a student has a simple question on how to locate either a book or journal title, the UCF Reference Libraries are happy to provide this type of service too.

ASSIGNMENTS AND POINTS

Assignments and Points are listed at the end of this document in the Course Schedule

GRADING SCALE

A	95 – 115	B-	80 - 83	D+	67 - 69
A-	90 – 94	C+	77 - 79	D	64 - 66
B+	87 – 89	C	74 - 76	D-	60 - 63
B	84 – 86	C-	70 - 73	F	59 or less

POLICIES

In addition to the information below, the student should become familiar with School of Work Student Handbook and The Golden Rule Handbook for UCF Students. All policies included in these handbooks apply to this class.

Modification of Syllabus

This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be discussed with students in class and/or via email. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the student's email address is current in eCommunity.

- The instructor expects students to respect the culture, values, beliefs and rights of their classmates. During class discussion forum sessions, alternate points of view are encouraged and should be received by others with respect. Students should feel free to express their opinions and to refer to relevant personal situations without fear of disapproval or disrespect; however, the classroom is not the place where students should indulge in personal venting or support seeking.

Attendance and Participation

Student attendance and participation are integral parts of this course. Students are expected to actively participate each week of the course. Students are also expected to assume responsibility for their own learning and to actively involve themselves in class discussions and exercises. Students must be prepared for the weekly learning modules (i.e., complete readings and other assignments *prior* to attempting the course assignments, discussion forums, quizzes, etc). Furthermore, make-up exams or extensions of due dates will be given **ONLY** in extreme circumstances. These circumstances include exceptional health EMERGENCIES (that require that the student bring in medical documentation). Out-of-town vacations, trips, mild colds, and other similar circumstances do not qualify as extreme. Students who miss three (3) or more assignments regardless of the reason will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade. The only exception to this is if the student has a **documented** extraordinary circumstance (student hospitalization; severe illness; death in the family; car accident) preventing the student from coming to class. In that case, the student must present written documentation to the instructor.

Attendance during Finals Week: It is university policy that all classes **MUST** meet for either a final exam or a class session. Therefore, a web module activity will be completed during finals week.

Written Assignments

Effective written communication skills are essential. Thus, students are expected to present their ideas clearly and properly and to adhere to accepted standards of writing. *Grammar, punctuation, and spelling are to be correct in all written materials submitted and will be considered in grading written assignments.* All written assignments must be typed in a 12-font print, and all margins must be one inch. The cover page of a paper is not considered to be a page of text. Work not conforming to these standards or demonstrating serious deficiencies in common English usage will be returned ungraded. When required, references should be included in the APA documentation style. Students are encouraged to use the University Writing Center (UWC) for assistance in preparing written assignments. The UWC is located in MOD 608 (near the Communications Building). UWC staff may be reached at (407) 823-2197 or <http://www.uwc.ucf.edu/>.

The assignments will emphasize the integration of interviewing, verbal, conceptualization and writing skills in practice. All assignments will be evaluated and graded on the following criteria.

1. Appropriate use of APA writing style.
2. Adequate number of references cited.
3. Organization and clarity of ideas presented.
4. Ability to integrate theory and practice appropriately.
5. Ability to use analytical skills throughout the assignment.
6. Creative ways of responding to the instructions beyond the requirements.

Late Assignments

All assignments must be turned in to the instructor using the methods indicated in the instructions for each web module. *Late assignments will lose a full letter grade for each week that they are late unless the student gained prior approval from the instructor.* No assignment will be accepted after the last day of class. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor regarding late assignments.

Incomplete Grades

In exceptional circumstances, an incomplete grade may be given per School and University policies. Individual arrangements must be made with the instructor for the completion of the course requirements, but in no case will the date set extend beyond the end of the following semester. Students who experience chronic medical or personal problems that prevent them from attending class regularly are encouraged to review policies relating to securing a leave of absence from their university studies.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

Students must demonstrate high standards of integrity. Every student is expected to do his or her own work and all of the work produced will be expected to be completed in its entirety by the student who turns it in. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any acts of plagiarism, *including not acknowledging sources of information appropriately and in accordance with APA guidelines*, may result in a failing grade in the course. School and University policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Students found to have cheated or plagiarized will receive no credit for the exam or assignment, receive a failing grade for the course and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. (See the UCF Golden Rule for further information.). Students who observe others violate this policy are expected to report this to the instructor.

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result in an "F" for that assignment, the student may also receive an "F" for the entire course and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. (See the UCF Golden Rule for further information.) It is assumed for this course that students will adhere to the academic creed of the University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. The instructor also adheres to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask for your grade to be changed without just cause or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Access Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

THE UCF CREED

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

- Integrity:** I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
- Scholarship:** I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
- Community:** I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
- Creativity:** I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
- Excellence:** I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

Module	Topic	Assignment Point Value(s)	Due Date
Orientation	Student Orientation to Course	15	September 1, 2008 11:59pm
Module 1	Aging IQ Quiz Discussion Forum: When I am 80	2 points 5 points	September 8, 2008 11:59pm
Module 2	Global Aging Quiz	8 points	September 15, 2008 11:59pm
Module 3	Retirement Community Brochure	10 points	September 22, 2008 11:59pm
Module 4	Biology of Aging Quiz	7 points	September 29, 2008 11:59pm
Module 5	Learning and Memory Quiz Creativity and Aging Exercise	5 points 5 points	October 6, 2008 11:59pm
Module 6	Time Line Questions	5 points	October 13, 2008 11:59pm
Module 7	Discussion Forum: Family Caregiving	5 points	October 20, 2008 11:59pm
Module 8	Letter to the Editor	5 points	October 27, 2008 11:59pm
Module 9	Discussion Forum: Older Workers	5 points	November 3, 2008 11:59pm

Module	Topic	Assignment Point Value(s)	Due Date
Module 10	Discussion Forum: Does Old Age Have Meaning?	5 points	November 10, 2008 11:59pm
Module 11	Discussion Forum: The Cost of Prescriptions	5 points	November 17, 2008 11:59pm
Module 12	Alzheimer's Disease Quiz	10 points	November 24, 2008 11:59pm
Module 13	Social Service Worksheets	8 points	December 1, 2008 11:59pm
Module 14	Discussion Forum: Should Older People Be Protected from Bad Choices?	5 points	December 8, 2008 11:59pm
Module 15	Discussion Forum: Talking about dying	5 points	December 8, 2008 11:59pm
		Total Possible Points = 115	

Final Grade Calculation	Total # of Points
A	95-115
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66

D-	60-63
F	59 or less