

Syllabus
Gerontology 300 Sociology of Aging
Fall 2009

Professor Abbott-Enz

Office: Behavioral/Social Sciences Division

Home office 707-795-0994

Email: abbottp@arc.losrios.edu

Office Hours: Online 9-5 M-Th via e-mail or by phone appointment.

Course Description: This course examines the aged and aging process with emphasis on social factors affecting and affected by an aging population. It includes an analysis of demographics, history of aging in America, social conditions, resources and support systems, employment, retirement, social class/cultural differences. Not open to students who have completed SOC 335.

Textbook: Moody, Harry. Aging, Concepts And Controversies 6th ed.
Thousand Oaks, Pine Forge Press, Ca. 2009 978-1-4129-6696-6
Cox, Harold, ANNUAL EDITIONS: AGING/Edition 2009/10
Indiana State University, Terre Haute, McGraw-Hill ISBN: 978-0-07-812773-1

Course Objectives: Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- explain the demographic shift in America
- describe the implications and challenges of increased longevity
- cite many of the major social and political issues involved in the aging of America, including (but certainly not limited to) intergenerational equity, the interdependence of the generations, health care rationing, family obligations, autonomy and self decision making (including whether older people should have the choice to end their lives or not), and the basis for entitlements and retirement income.
- explain what is meant by "the life course perspective" of aging.
- conduct web research and organize data into meaningful postings.
- utilize the online learning environment to access course materials, interact with the instructor and other students, and participate in assessments and to interpret feedback from colleagues.

Class Format: This class incorporates student discussions, handouts (electronic), lecture notes, text readings, short quizzes, cyber field trips, interactive internet learning, and student research and presentations and optional, extra credit videos available on campus only.

Material in the lecture area will increase your knowledge on a particular topic and will not reiterate information directly from the text. You will however, need to be familiar with the text in order to follow the lecture, complete the web assignments and write a coherent term paper.

Weekly Expectations (to be completed by the end of each class week, Mondays 11:59pm)

- Complete weekly online and textbook reading assignments.
- Actively participate in online discussions (3 postings per week is required).
- Complete the week's open book, open note quiz due before the end of each class week.

Required Assignments and Point Distribution:

- Social Issues Term Paper	25
- Web Assignment (1 posting 5 pts/2 responses 5pts)	150
- Open Book Quizzes 10 @ 10pts each	100
- Presentation of Social Issues Paper	15
- Response to social issues papers	5
- Orientation Posting (initial introduction)	5
Total Possible	300

Final Grades will be determined by points, not a grading curve, and will be distributed as follows:

300-270 =	A
269-240=	B
239-210=	C
209-180=	D
179-below	F

PLEASE NOTE: College Policy requires that we inform you of the following:

Drop Policy and Plagiarism Policy: It is the responsibility of each student to notify admissions and withdraw from the course if they desire to be removed from the class. Failure to do this may result in a "F" grade. I may however elect to drop students who do not post (come to class) for more than three weeks.

Please do your own work. Plagiarism is a serious offense and can result in your being dropped from this course with a grade of F and will be reported to proper college authorities for appropriate disciplinary action.