

Aging and Society

Sample

(Subject to Changes)

Instructor Lin Chen

Course Code SOCI130209

Credit Hours Per Week 2

Total credit hours 40

Language of Instruction English

1.Course Description

This course aims to provide students with knowledge of aging as a trending phenomenon that impacts multiple dimensions of the society. The economic, health/mental healthcare, intergenerational, and environmental impacts of growing aging populations will be discussed. The social context, and understanding of aging from the bio-psycho-social framework will be highlighted. Differences between developing and developed countries' perceptions and responses to their growing older populations will be examined.

2.Course Objectives

- (1)Students will develop a gerontological perspective through knowledge and self-reflection.
- (2)Students will engage collaboratively with others to promote integrated approaches to aging.
- (3)Students will learn to promote life-long learning opportunities across the life span to enhance personal development social inclusion and quality of life.

3.Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction to Population Aging and Its Implications for the Society

- Course overview
- Population aging
- Life span and life expectancy
- The longevity revolution and you

Week 2 Global Aging

- Worldwide aging
- Domestic and international demographic shift
- The epidemiologic transition

Reading:

Scott, A. (2018). The myth of the “aging society.” Project Syndicate, 2018 May 25.

Week 3 Country comparison presentation

- Introducing population aging in your country
- Introducing relevant local services for older adults

Week 4 Social Theories of Aging

- Biopsychosocial perspective
- Life course perspective

Reading:

McMullin, J. A. (2000). Diversity and the state of sociological aging theory. *The Gerontologist*, 40(5), 517-530.

Rowe, J. W., & Kahn, R. L. (2015). Successful aging 2.0: Conceptual expansions for the 21st century. *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B*, 70(4), 593-596.

Week 5 Physiological Aging

- Cardiovascular system
- Atherosclerosis and the immune system
- Life style effects

Reading:

Amarya, S., Singh, K., & Sabharwal, M. (2015). Changes during aging and their association with malnutrition. *Journal of Clinical Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 6(3), 78-84.

Feng, Q., Zhen, Z., Gu, D., Wu, B., Duncan, P. W., & Purser, J. L. (2013). Trends in ADL and IADL disability in community-dwelling older adults in Shanghai, China, 1998-2008. *J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci*, 68(3), 476-485.

Week 6 Life review interview NO CLASS

Week 7 Cognitive Aging and Dementia (1)

- Cognitive process of aging
- Cognitive health
- Mild cognitive impairment

Reading:

Li, J., Lai, D. W., Chappell, N. L. (2021). The older, the happier?: A cross-sectional study on the “paradox of aging” in China. *Research on Aging*. doi: 10.1177/0164027521994225

Finlay, J., Esposito, M., Langa, K. M., Judd, S., & Clarke, P. (2022). Cognability: An Ecological Theory of neighborhoods and cognitive aging. *Social Science & Medicine*, 309, 115220.

Week 8 Cognitive Aging and Dementia (2)

- Symptoms
- Prognoses
- Impacts

Reading:

Williams, V., Webb, J., Read, S., James, R., & Davis, H. (2020). Future lived experience: Inclusive research with people living with dementia. *Qualitative Research*, 20(5), 721-740.

Week 9 Cognitive Aging and Dementia (3)

- Treatment
- Caregiving and caregivers
- Long-term care

Reading:

Kaiser, R. M. & Kaiser, S. L. (2017). The insiders as outsiders: Professionals caring for an aging parent. *The Gerontologist*, 57(1), 46-60.

Feng, Z., Glinskaya, E., Chen, H., Gong, S., Qiu, Y., Xu, J., & Yip, W. (2020). Long-term care system for older adults in China: Policy landscape, challenges, and future prospects. *The Lancet*, 396(10259), 1362-1372.

Week 10 Older Adults and their Families

- Intergenerational relationships
- Grandparenting

Reading:

Choi, S. W. E., & Zhang, Z. (2021). Caring as curing: Grandparenting and depressive symptoms in China. *Social Science & Medicine*, 289, 114452.

Week 11 Older Adults and Community

- Social networks
- Age-friendly communities
- Productive aging

Reading:

Choi, Y. J. (2022). Understanding aging in place: Home and community features, perceived age-friendliness of community, and intention toward aging in place. *The Gerontologist*, 62, 46-55.

Gonzales, E., Matz-Costa, C., & Morrow-Howell, N. (2015). Increasing opportunities for the productive engagement of older adults: A response to population aging. *The Gerontologist*, 55, 252-261.

Greenfield, E. A., Black, K., Buffel, T., & Yeh, J. (2019). Community gerontology: A framework for research, policy, and practice on communities and aging. *The Gerontologist*, 59(5), 803-810.

Week 12 Ageism

- Attitudes about aging and ageism
- Social response to ageism

Reading:

Fraser, S., Lagacé, M., Bongué, B., Ndeye, N., Guyot, J., Bechard, L., ... & Tougas, F. (2020). Ageism and COVID-19: what does our society's response say about us?. *Age and Ageing*, 49(5), 692-695.

Gendron, T. L., Welleford, E. A., Inker, J., & White, J. T. (2016). The language of ageism: Why we need to use words carefully. *The Gerontologist*, 56(6), 997-1006.

Week 13 Movie critique NO CLASS

Week 14 Movie critique presentation

Week 15 Older Adults and Financial Exploitation

- Fraud
- Financial exploitation

Reading:

Lichtenberg, P. A., Campbell, R., Hall, L., & Gross, E. Z. (2020). Context matters: Financial, psychological, and relationship insecurity around personal finance is associated with financial exploitation. *The Gerontologist*, 60(6), 1040-1049.

Mears, D. P., Reisig, M. D., Scaggs, S., & Holtfreter, K. (2016). Efforts to reduce consumer fraud victimization among the elderly: The effect of information access on program awareness and contact. *Crime & Delinquency*, 62(9), 1235-1259.

Rabiner, D. J., O'Keeffe, J., & Brown, D. (2005). A conceptual framework of financial exploitation of older persons. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 16(2), 53-73.

Week 16 Aging and Social Policy

- Policies on aging
- Future care plan

Reading:

Li, X., & Zhang, W. (2013). The impacts of health insurance on health care utilization among the older people in China. *Social Science & Medicine*, 85, 59-65.

Week 17 Policy critique NO CLASS

Week 18 Policy critique presentation

Week 19 Death and Dying

- Sociohistorical perspective on death
- Programs of care for the dying
- Grief and bereavement

Reading:

Harrison, K. L., Hunt, L. J., Ritchie, C. S., & Yaffe, K. (2019). Dying with dementia: under-recognized and stigmatized. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 67(8), 1548-1551.

Nipp, R. D., Temel, B., Fuh, C. X., Kay, P., Landay, S., Lage, D., ... & Temel, J. S. (2020). Pilot randomized trial of a transdisciplinary geriatric and palliative care intervention for older adults with cancer. *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network*, 18(5), 591-598.

4.Grading & Evaluation

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| (1) Class participation | 10% |
| (2) Group project | 40% (presentation 20% + report 20%) |
| Working as a group (4-5 students), students pick one aging phenomenon of interest to present | |
| (3) Life review interview | 20% |
| (4) Final paper | 30% |

5.Readings

Hooyman, N. R., & Kiyak, H. A. (2017). *Social gerontology: A multidisciplinary perspective*. (9th Ed.) Pearson Education.

Course Director's Academic Background:

Chen Lin, Associate Professor of Social Work Department.

B.A. in Social Work, Fudan University

M.Phil. in Social Work, University of Oxford

Ph.D. in Social Welfare, University of California, Los Angeles