



COURSE TITLE/SECTION: SOCW 7336/17196 Issues in Aging

TIME: Tuesday 8:30am – 11:30am

FACULTY: W. Andrew Achenbaum

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 1pm- 4pm

E-mail: achenbaum@uh.edu

Phone: 713/743-8070

FAX: 713/743-8149

I. Course

A. Catalog Description

Cr. 3. (3.0) This course provides an overview of the aging population, the service delivery systems, challenges and opportunities facing older adults and key issues in aging.

B. Purpose

This course will examine the changing demographics of older adults in the United States and provide an overview of key issues that impact service delivery including an understanding of the unique needs of older adults, the aging process, resiliency, diversity, influence of policies, and financial issues.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

1. Define key and significant trends in the demographics of the aging population;
2. Develop a working knowledge of policies, systemic issues, and forces shaping the service delivery system for the aging population as well as barriers to services;
3. Describe the normal and abnormal aging process and the range of physical and mental health needs along a continuum of;
4. Analyze the implications of political forces and importance of continuing Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid as social support systems for older adults;
5. Explore the role of family and the impact of aging on family caregivers;
6. Identify the influence of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and sexual orientation on the process of aging and services delivery; and
7. Define the role of gerontological social workers as productive members

and advocates for the aging population across diverse settings.

III. Course Content

This course will include the following topical (content) areas:

1. Gerontology defined and social work as a field of practice;
2. Demography, societal issues, and attitudes toward old age;
3. Biopsychosocial theories and historical context of aging;
4. Issues in home care and long term institutional caregiving
5. Personal, interpersonal and political advocacy and empowerment for social and economic justice;
6. Diversity in aging and culturally competent practice
7. Ethical dilemmas in practice with elderly populations;
8. Community, family, friends and social support systems
9. Economics of aging, income distribution and government
10. Policies, politics and social service programs

IV. Course Structure

This class combines lectures, student led discussions, small group exercises, active participation in class dialogue is required.

V. Textbooks

Butler, Robert N., M.D. *The Longevity Revolution*
New York: Public Affairs, 2008.

A few other readings to be retrieved on internet

VI. Course Requirements

This section should identify the course assignments, including written assignments, projects, and exams, as well as due dates. It is suggested that any stipulations regarding late submissions be included here.

A. Preparation, and Participation - 50%

Students are expected to read assigned material and come prepared to actively participate by contributing to class discussion throughout the semester. Two persons will be assigned a “controversy” to help lead weekly conversations. Initiative is always rewarded: feel free to circulate additional readings.

B. Term Paper - 50%

Students will be required to select a topic, approved by the instructor. Papers must be 15-20 pages in length.

C. Attendance

Students are expected to attend class (two excused absences allowed; tardiness monitored), therefore credit is not factored into your grade. Excessive absences or tardiness will however result in lowering of final grade and student being dropped from course. Please see university policy on Incompletes as this will be adhered to as well.

VII. Evaluation and Grading

The following standard grading scale has been adopted for all courses taught in the college.

A =	96-100% of the points	C+ =	76-79.9%
A- =	92-95.9%	C =	72-75.9%
B+=	88-91.9%	C- =	68-71.9%
B =	84-87.9%	D =	64-67.9%
B- =	80-83.9%	F =	Below 64%

VIII. Policy on grades of I (Incomplete):

The grade of "I" (Incomplete) is a conditional and temporary grade given when students are either **(a)** passing a course or **(b)** still have a reasonable chance of passing in the judgment of the instructor but, for non-academic reasons beyond their control have not completed a relatively small part of all requirements. Students are responsible for informing the instructor immediately of the reasons for not submitting an assignment on time or not taking an examination. Students must contact the instructor of the course in which they receive an "I" grade to make arrangements to complete the course requirements. Students should be instructed not to re-register for the same course in a following semester in order to complete the incomplete requirements.

The grade of "I" must be changed by fulfillment of course requirements within one year of the date awarded or it will be changed automatically to an "F" (or to a "U" [Unsatisfactory] in S/U graded courses). The instructor may require a time period of less than one year to fulfill course requirements, and the grade may be changed by the instructor at any time to reflect work completed in the course. The grade of "I" may not be changed to a grade of **W**.

IX. Policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism

Students are expected to demonstrate and maintain a professional standard of writing in all courses, do one's own work, give credit for the ideas of others, and provide proper citation of source materials. Any student who plagiarizes any part of a paper or assignment or engages in any form of academic dishonesty will receive an "I" for the class with a recommendation that a grade of F be assigned, subsequent to a College hearing, in accordance with the University policy on academic dishonesty. Other actions may also be recommended and/or taken by the College to suspend or expel a student who engages in academic dishonesty.

All papers and written assignments must be fully and properly referenced using APA style format (or as approved by the instructor), with credit given to the authors whose ideas you have used. If you are using direct quotes from a specific author (or authors), you must set the quote in quotation marks or use an indented quotation form. For all direct quotes, you must include the page number(s) in your text or references. Any time that you use more than four or five consecutive words taken from another author, you must clearly indicate that this is a direct quotation. Please consult the current APA manual for further information.

Academic dishonesty includes using any other person's work and representing it as your own. This includes (but is not limited to) using graded papers from students who have previously taken this course as the basis for your work. It also includes, but is not limited to submitting the same paper to more than one class. If you have any specific questions about plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please raise these questions in class or make an appointment to see instructor. This statement is consistent with the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty that can be found in your UH Student Handbook.

X. Americans with Disabilities Statement

Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please call 713-743-5400 for more assistance. Instructors may not provide accommodations without supporting documentation from the UH Center for Students with Disabilities.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

January 20: Introduction—after class skim Butler, *Longevity Revolution*, ch. 1-2

January 27: Continuities amidst changing longevity

Book of Job, ch. 1-3, 32-end

February 3: Ageism

Butler, ch. 3-4

February 10: Relational challenges are often gender-based

Butler, ch. 5-6

Gender and aging article

February 17: Research on aging and Longevity science

Butler, ch. 7, 9, and 10

February 24: Alzheimer's disease: a medical and social problem

Butler, ch. 8

Whitehouse.....

March 3: Health care in America

Butler, ch. 11-12

March 10: Aging, dying and death

Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilych*

March 17: SPRING BREAK

March 24: Politics of aging

Butler, ch. 16

March 31: Economics of aging

Butler, ch. 13, 14, 15

April 7: Global aging

Butler, ch. 18-19

April 14: The Longevity Revolution's impact on American norms and values

Butler, ch. 20, 21

April 21: Presentation of term papers

April 28: Presentation of term papers

A hard copy of your term paper is due in my office by noon on Tuesday, May 5.