

GRNT 6700 (or Psyc 6700): PSYCHOLOGY OF AGING

Spring Semester, 2006

Conference Room, Institute of Gerontology

Time: Mondays 1:25 to 4:25 pm

Instructor:

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Goals, Class Format, and Procedures:

This course is designed to cover the major areas of psychological aging research (e.g., neuroscience, intelligence, memory, research methods, mental health), but it will also deal with the everyday problems faced by older adults (e.g., relationships, retirement, caregiving, death and dying).

It is important for the students to know that this graduate level course is taught in a pro-seminar-interactive style, and predicated on active student participation. The student is solely responsible for the acquisition of information and knowledge through assigned readings and viewing of videotaped lectures with accompanying powerpoint slides and assigned readings in six content domain clusters. Students' demonstration of their knowledge will be through students' class presentations and written assignments. The role of the instructor is to guide the students in further understanding and integration of the acquired knowledge. Students will learn and sharpen their presentation and writing skills in this course.

Several content areas are included in each of the six clusters in the syllabus. Assigned reading, lecture tapes and associated powerpoints are assigned for each content area. The time schedule for the acquisition of knowledge is defined in the syllabus. Assigned reading materials are defined in the syllabus. Students can come to the Institute of Gerontology during working hours at their convenience to view the lectures. The contact person at the Institute to acquire the lectures for viewing is Kerry Miguez, kmiguez@geron.uga.edu, 706-425-3222). It is important to provide Kerry with plenty of lead time so that she can arrange the times accordingly.

Powerpoint slides that are contained in the lecture will be given to the students in printed form so that the student can preview and view the slides while viewing the lecture.

Students are given about two weeks to do the reading and view the lectures for each cluster. Students will then come together to summarize and present their knowledge on the specifically assigned area and then participate in the discussion of the presentations.

Six papers of five to ten pages in length (single spaced) will be written on the student's presentation area at the time of presentation. Each paper will be due at the time of the presentation. Students are encouraged to use powerpoint at their presentation. Other types of media could also be employed to assist in the presentation. In this manner, a thorough understanding of a content area will be demonstrated first in written form and then through the verbal presentation. The instructor hopes to share all papers and powerpoints among the students so that the students can build a comprehensive repertoire of material for future reference.

It is noted that presentation and lecture skills are important parts of graduate education. This course will help the student develop those skills over time in this course.

A final examination will be distributed in about the tenth week of the course, and the exam will be due on May 5, 2005.

Textbook:

Hoyer, W. J., & Roodin, P.A. (2003). Adult Development and Aging (Fifth Edition). New York: McGraw Hill. [ISBN 0-697-36202-7] (can be purchased from Off Campus Bookstore on Baxter St.)

Topics and Schedule

Week	Topic Areas	Readings	Papers due and class discussion
Jan 9	Orientation/introduction		
Jan 10 - 16 Student preparation on their own	Cluster 1 The construct of age Our aging society Research methods	Chapters 1-2	First paper due
Jan 23 Student presentations and seminars 2 to 5 pm	Cluster 1		
Jan 24 – Feb 3 Student preparation	Cluster 2 Biological changes Aging brain and Alzheimer's disease Mental health Clinical assessment*	Chapters 3-5	Second paper due
Feb 6 Student presentations and seminar 2 to 5 pm	Cluster 2		

Feb 7-17 Student preparation	Cluster 3 Memory Intelligence Creativity, expertise Personality	Chapters 7-10	Third paper due
Feb 20 Presentations and seminar 2 to 5 pm	Cluster 3		
Feb 21-Mar 3 student preparation	Cluster 4 Death & dying Caregiving Relationships	Chapters 6,11,13	Fourth paper due
Mar 6 Presentations and seminar 2 to 5 pm	Cluster 4		
Mar 7 - 17 Student preparation	Cluster 5 Work & retirement Oldest old Human Factors	Chapters 12	Fifth paper due
Mar 20 Presentations and seminar 2 to 5 pm	Cluster 5		
Mar 21-31 Student preparation	Cluster 6 Successful Aging*		Sixth paper due
Apr 3 Presentations and seminar 2 to 5 pm	Cluster 6		
Apr 14	Open discussion		
May 8			Final take home examination due

Knowledge, Understanding, and Integration Papers:

Six papers will be written on each of the six clusters to 1) outline the acquired knowledge, 2) demonstrate the understanding of the contents by applying and integrating the contents to examples from the student's own disciplines, field, or employment situations, and 3) summarize your conclusions and insights based on the material. Each paper will employ APA style with references. Each paper will be due (by email attachment to lpoon@geron.uga.edu) no later than 5 p.m. on the due date. Please use WORD as your word processor and label your file in the following manner: "last name cluster X.doc"). There is no page limit on the papers; however a recommended median length is 5 to 10 pages single spaced (plus or minus).

Class Presentation and Discussion:

The class will meet on the designated times outlined in the syllabus. One student will present his or her paper, and other students will then extend, discuss, and integrate the paper. The instructor will guide the students through the discussion to inculcate a thorough understanding and integration of the cluster.

Final Examination:

A final examination will be distributed at about the tenth week of the course, and the exam will be due on or before 5 p.m. on the designated date. The exam is open book, and any material can be used, except for consultation with another person. The student can use any material including the six required papers or any other papers written previously. The exam is a final demonstration of knowledge, understanding, and integration.

Student evaluation:

(Pts)	
42	Papers (7 points per paper) (1 points will automatically be subtracted from each late paper)
42	Class presentation and participation (7 points per presentation and discussion)
16	Final examination
100	Total points, with 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; <60 = F

Owing to the small number of class meetings, all students are expected to attend all class sessions. If unforeseen events prevent your class attendance, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor and fellow students as soon as possible prior to the class. Some other mutually agreeable arrangements would need to be worked out. Or, the student will forfeit the points associated with the presentation and discussion during the absence.