

SPRING 2015
SOCIOLOGY 353: ANALYSIS IN SOCIOLOGY OF AGING

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READING:

Harry R. Moody (2006). *Aging: Concepts and Controversies*. Sixth Edition. Pine Forge Press: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Tuesday's With Morrie. Albom, Mitch. Doubleday; 1997.

Additional articles will be assigned and handed out as useful.

COURSE PURPOSE:

The Sociology of Aging is a substantive field which has major social policy as well as personal significance in contemporary life. This course will introduce sociological frameworks for understanding personal as well as societal issues of aging. We will also examine the ethical issues embedded in the ways in which aging is experienced, the treatment of the old in society, and social policies towards the elderly. The course will focus on controversies in three broad areas: (1) issues of personal meaning in a life course perspective; (2) issues of social and economic equity; and (3) issues of aging and healthcare. It is intended that this course provide a sociological foundation from which interested students can pursue further academic work leading either to a research career, planning and administrative careers, or a clinical career in the field of social gerontology.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Recognize and discuss class, gender and cultural aspects of aging.
- Effectively communicate understanding by writing on aging topics.
- Evaluate macro- and micro-level factors that influence aging in our society.
- Compare and contrast issues and theories using a sociological point of view.
- Discuss issues and concerns related to aging.

COURSE GRADES:

20% Weekly Discussion Participation

20% Short Paper assignments

20% Quiz Grades

20% Final Paper

20% Final Exam

Weekly Discussion Participation: Each student will participate in a weekly discussion answering a set of questions posted about the chapter. The responses dates for the

discussion posts will be announced. Late post will not be accepted for credit. If accessibility issues arise, students are encouraged to work with the ACCESS office on campus (808-844-2392).

Short Papers. (2) short papers will be due which focus on the media presented in the class. A guide sheet will be provided to assist you in assessing the film. Papers should be between 2-3 pages in length, double spaced. **I do not accept late papers.**

Quizzes. There will be 3 quizzes over the course of the semester. Quizzes are based on the textbook material covered in the PowerPoint slides, the video links provided for you to view and the assigned films/readings. **I do not give make up exams.**

Final Paper: *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Your final paper will reflect a detailed understanding of the content of the course as it applied to the assigned book: *Tuesdays with Morrie*. A guide sheet will be provided. **I do not accept late papers.**

Final Exam: The final exam will reflect all of the content covered in the course and account for 25% of your overall grade. **I do not give make up exams.**

Scholarly Integrity: Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms (University of Hawaii at Manoa, Student Conduct Code, Section H. Academic Dishonesty, Part 2, Page 6).

If you feel you need reasonable accommodations because of the impact of a disability, please (1) contact the KOKUA Program, located in room 013 of the QLCSS or telephone 956-7511 or 956-7612; (2) speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. I will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs related to your documented disability.

WI FOCUS REQUIREMENTS:

Writing Intensive Course (WI): This course has been designated WI. Writing is a kind of learning tool, like listening, reading, observing and experimenting. Various forms of writing will be used:

- a. Reflective Papers: All three of the reflective paper assignments are to be no more than 3 pages in length. At least one draft must be reviewed with the instructor prior to final submission. Researching additional articles for relevant information to be included in your discussions may be a good idea. Follow the generally accepted format of sociological writing for publication is important and will be noted in your submissions. The final draft dates of the three papers will be announced.
- b. Final Paper: Not less than 10 pages based on the book *Tuesday's With Morrie*. A guide sheet will be provided.

Papers will be graded based on the following general criteria:

- c. Thoroughness and depth of analysis (40%)
- d. Relevance or appropriateness of contents (20%)
- e. Organized and logical presentation (20%)
- f. Clear and concise writing (20%)

Course Outline:

Week of 01/26/15

Introduction to the course and each other
A Life Course Perspective on Aging

Basic Concepts: pages 1-27

Week of 02/02/15

Does Old Age Have Meaning?

Controversy 1: pages 27-52

Week of 02/09/15

Why Do our Bodies Grow Old?

Controversy 2: pages 53-92

Week of 02/16/15

Quiz
Does Intellectual Function Decline With Age?

Controversy 3: pages 93-12

Week of 02/23/15

Should We Ration Health Care to Older People?

Controversy 4: pages 129-162

Week of 03/02/15

Should Families Provide For Their Own?
Reflective Paper: First Draft: Gran Torino

Controversy 5: pages 163-194

Week of 03/09/15

Should Older People Be Protected From Bad Choices? Controversy 6: pages 195-228

Week of 03/16/15

Quiz 2
Final Draft: Gran Torino

Week of 03/30/15

Should People Have The Choice To End Their Lives? Controversy 7: pages 229-256
First Draft: Tuesdays With Morrie

Week of 04/06/15

Should Age or Needs Be the Basis for Entitlement? Controversy 8: pages 319-356
Reflective Paper First Draft

Week of 04/13/15

Quiz 3

What is the Future of Social Security?

Controversy 9: pages 357-390

Week of 04/20/15

Is Retirement Obsolete?

Final Draft: WIT 12/01/14

Controversy 10: pages 391-428

Week of 04/27/15

Aging Baby Boomers: Boom or Bust

Controversy 11: pages 391-428

Week of 05/04/15

Final Draft of *Tuesdays With Morrie*

Week of 05/11/15

Final Exam

I Reserve the Right to Change the Syllabus as Needed