

Sociology of Aging

Gerontology 420

Section: C100

Term: 2003 Summer

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Wister

Discussion Topics: This course provides students with an understanding of aging and the aged from a sociological perspective. It illustrates how the integration of theory and methodology from the social sciences can be used to describe, explain, and predict social gerontological phenomena and to analyze critically the implications of these patterns for social policy. Students will develop an awareness and appreciation of the social significance of aging in a variety of cultural contexts but with a strong emphasis on Canadian society. Topics include demographic aspects of aging, historical perspectives, theoretical

and methodological approaches to the study of aging, health status and health care issues, living environments and aging, family and social support across the life-cycle, and social policy. Sociology of aging is a subject area that is often "applied"; that is, research in the field tends to identify solutions (e.g., to make policy recommendations and/or develop programs) to social problems. For this reason, it frequently adopts an interdisciplinary approach to the study of aging. However, the course predominantly draws on research conducted by sociologists.

Grading: Midterm Exam: 30%

Essay: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

Total: 100%

Required Texts: McPherson, B. (1998). *Aging as a Social Process*. (3rd edition). Toronto: Butterworths.

Gutman, G., Wister, A., Carriere, Y., & Tredwell, S. (2000). *Fact Book on Aging in British Columbia*. (3rd edition). Vancouver, B.C: Gerontology Research Centre.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies: Course Materials & Service Fee \$30.00

Deposit for Additional Materials \$25.00

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 60 Credit Hours; Gero 300 recommended

Notes: WebCT (optional)

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