

FCHD 4240: Social and Family Gerontology Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Braungart Fauth
Office: 222 Family Life Bldg
Office Hours: Wednesday 10 to 11 and by appointment (I have lots of availability!)
Email: beth.fauth@usu.edu
(please email me directly rather than sending a message via canvas)
Phone: 797-1989
Class Meeting Times: Mon./Wed./Fri. – 12:30-1:20 in Fine Arts Visual 262

Teaching Assistant: Alex Schiwal alex.schiwal@gmail.com

Required Texts:

Snyder, C. L. (Ed.). (2006). *Euthanasia: Opposing viewpoints*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, Inc.

*** All additional required readings are provided on Canvas**

Required Equipment: i-clicker (available at USU Bookstore)

Suggested Texts:

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C

Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the major challenges faced by aging persons and their families in contemporary society, to facilitate student understanding of programs and policies designed to meet the needs of aging persons and their families, and to facilitate student ability to critically examine these programs and policies.

Course Objectives: In this course you should develop:

1. An understanding of the characteristics and needs of aging individuals and their families of various ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, and their relationships to larger social institutions
2. An understanding of social, economic, and governmental policies on aging and their implications
3. An understanding of the decisions individuals and families make about developing and allocating resources
4. The ability to communicate effectively in written form including the understanding and correct use of APA style
5. The ability to think critically and integrate theory with practice
6. The development of oral presentation skills, interpersonal skills, and ability to engage in continuous, collaborative learning

This course follows the following USU policies:

Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

The Honor Pledge: To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

Grievance Process (Student Code)

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking - which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student_code.pdf (Article VII. Grievances, pages 25-30).

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille."

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Additional Utah State University Resources for Students

The Writing Center	797-2712
Counseling Center	797-1012

Course-specific policies

Meeting Deadlines

Students are expected to complete all of their assignments and exams as scheduled. Medical excuses, a death in the family, or other USU-endorsed exemptions (e.g., athletics) may be recognized as a valid excuse only if accompanied by adequate documentation and, in some cases, a personal meeting with the instructor. A medical excuse needs to be a valid, written note from a medical professional that explains why you were unable to attend the exam or write the paper on time (although personal health information such as diagnoses should be withheld). An insurance form or receipt from a health center *is not* considered a valid excuse by itself. If you have questions about the legitimacy of an excuse and/or if you know in advance of your scheduling conflicts, you must meet with the instructor (not the TA) in advance to discuss your options. In nearly all cases you will be required to hand in the paper or take the exam early.

Attendance, Classroom Conduct, and Participation

It is expected that you will attend the lectures daily. Please arrive at class on time and plan to stay for the entire duration of class. I expect you to be respectful of my time, your time, and your classmates' time, so please stay awake and refrain from engaging in disruptive private conversations.

Please turn off all cell phones prior to the start of class. If your phone rings you will need to provide treats for the entire class at the next class period. ☺

I do not allow laptop computers in my class unless approved by the Disability Resource Center.

If you are unable to attend on a given day, make sure that you review what was covered in class with a classmate. On exams you will be responsible for all lecture material (including class discussions) in addition to the readings. I do not give out copies of my lecture notes to students.

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP POINTS GIVEN FOR MISSED I-clicker POINTS.

You must be present to receive participation points.

You are allowed to miss 3 classes without penalty: I give you 3 bonus points at the end of the semester to offset up to 3 days' points that you have missed. If you miss less than 3 days of class, these points will still go toward your final grade.

Exams

There will be 4 (non-cumulative) in-class exams based on readings and lecture material. The purpose of these exams is to test for an understanding of the lecture & reading material as well as an ability to apply concepts. Exam format is most often multiple choice & true/false, but may also contain matching, fill-in-the-blanks, and short answer questions.

Students unable to take the exam on the designated date must notify the instructor **ONE WEEK** in advance, provide a valid and approved excuse, and receive permission to take a make-up exam. Unless there is a last-minute emergency situation, make up exams will occur *before* the date of the scheduled exam.

Make-up examinations will not be administered unless arrangements have been made in advance. The exception to this is when a death in the family occurs within a few days of the exam. In this case the instructor needs to be notified as soon as possible.

Assignments: ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBMITTED VIA CANVAS

Details for formatting and what is expected for the individual assignment are provided for each assignment on Canvas.

General Criteria:

Evaluation of writing assignments will be based on the clarity and the quality of your writing (points will be deducted for spelling and grammatical errors, poor organization, etc), as well as how well you addressed the purpose of the assignments.

The following APA style expectations are required (refer to APA Publication Manual 6th edition):

If you do not own an APA manual you are still expected to know and utilize the APA format. Multiple copies of this text are available at USU libraries.

- Please have these papers double-spaced, in 12pt Times New Roman or 12pt Arial font, and margins of 1" all around. Do not include an extra space after each paragraph break.
- Language must be unbiased (e.g. use "older adult", not "the elderly", etc. – see page 76)
- Plagiarism is not accepted: see description in the manual (pages 11-16)
- In-text citations and references must be in APA format (Chapter 6 and 7)
- **You do NOT need a cover/title page or abstract for any of your assignments.**

BACK UP YOUR WRITING IN MULTIPLE DRIVES and do not wait until the last minute to complete your writing assignments! "My computer crashed" or "I lost my file" are not acceptable excuses for a late assignment.

Assignments submitted to canvas within 24 hours past the due date and time automatically receive 3 points off their total grade. Those handed in within 24 and 48 hours of the start time of class on the due date receive 6 points off. For every 24-hour increment that the assignment is late, and additional 3 points will be taken off. If

you must be away on the day these assignments are due, please plan to turn them in early. I don't accept paper versions of assignments, unless exceptions are discussed in advance.

Students are invited to discuss their concerns about their grades at any time during the semester with the instructor. Concerns that a particular paper has been graded unfairly should be put in writing and emailed to Dr. Fauth. After reviewing your concern she will set up an appointment to meet with you and discuss the paper.

One Extra Credit Opportunity: You have one opportunity per semester to gain extra credit. You can **earn 5 extra points** (1% of your final grade) by SUBMITTING VIA CANVAS a funny comic, joke, or video related to Gerontology. I won't accept racist, sexually explicit, or otherwise inappropriate humor. It must be acceptable to show in class. You cannot earn the extra credit points more than once per semester, and this is your only opportunity to earn extra credit points.

Grading Procedures

I-clicker (39 days – none for day 1 or exam days)	39 points	7%
Exam 1	100 points	17%
Exam 2	100 points	17%
Exam 3	100 points	17%
Exam 4	100 points	17%
Opposing Viewpoints Paper: Physician Assisted Suicide	60 points	10%
Reflection papers		
Views of Aging	5 points	1 %
Social Security Reform	40 points	7 %
Financial Planning	15 points	3 %
Grandparenting	15 points	3 %
Movie reflection	5 points	1 %
Total Score	579 points	100% of grade

Course Schedule (SEE CANVAS FOR ASSIGNED READINGS)

Date	Assignment Due	Lecture Topic (readings are posted on Canvas)
Mon. 8/29		Syllabus; Overview
Wed. 8/31		Societies Views of Aging
Fri. 9/2	Views of Aging Due	
Mon. 9/5	LABOR DAY: NO CLASS	Social Demographics: Effects on Aging
Wed. 9/7		
Fri. 9/9		
Mon. 9/12		Aging Population: Effects on America
Wed. 9/14		
Fri. 9/16		
Mon. 9/19		Social policy: Social Security
Wed. 9/21		
Fri. 9/23	Exam 1	
Mon. 9/26		Social policy: Medicare
Wed. 9/28		
Fri. 9/30		
Mon. 10/3		Retirement
Wed. 10/5	Social Security Reform Due	
Fri. 10/7		
Mon. 10/10		Family Decisions: Financial Planning
Wed. 10/12		
Fri. 10/14		
Mon. 10/17	Exam 2	Family Decisions: Estate Planning
Wed. 10/19		
THU. 10/20	Follow Friday Schedule (no class Fri.10/21)	
Mon. 10/24	Financial Planning Due	Family Care: End of Life, Hospice
Wed. 10/26		
Fri. 10/28		
Mon. 10/31		Social Policy: Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide
Wed. 11/2		
Fri. 11/4		
Mon. 11/7	Exam 3	Family Decisions: Long-term Care & Living Arrangements
Wed. 11/9		
Fri. 11/11		
Mon. 11/14		Family Caregiving & Living Arrangements
Wed. 11/16	Physician Assisted Suicide Paper Due	
Fri. 11/18		
Mon. 11/21		Late Life Family Relationships
Wed. 11/23	NO CLASS. (Turkey Break)	
Fri. 11/25		
Mon. 11/28	Grandparenting Project Due	Family Diversity: Focus on Grandparenting
Wed. 11/30		
Fri. 12/2		
Mon. 12/5	In Class Movie	Movie: Young at Heart Careers in Aging
Wed. 12/7	In Class Movie	
Fri. 12/9	Movie reflection Due	
WED. 12/14	(finals week) 11:30-12:30	Exam 4 (non-cumulative)

Note! The above schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be announced in class and highlighted on the course web page. The student is personally responsible for obtaining updated information regarding these changes.