

Department:

Sociology

Course Description:

This course examines how historical, psychological, cultural, social, and biological factors affect the aging process. The course also considers the perceptions that society has of aging, especially successful aging.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Summarize the different theories of aging.
2. Describe how the demographics of aging differ in terms of gender, socio-economic status, education, location, marital status, and race.
3. Identify government programs that provide support to the aging population.
4. Explain how aging affects creativity, wisdom, and intelligence.
5. Identify mental disorders that are more common among the aged than the young.
6. Describe the theory of social support systems.
7. Explain how marriage changes in its later stages.
8. Describe different types of living arrangements common in the aged population.
9. Describe current trends in the labor force and explain the transition from work to retirement.
10. Identify factors that affect the overall health status of older adults.
11. Describe how becoming a caregiver potentially affects one's personal life.
12. List a variety of caregiving options available to meet the needs of the aged.
13. Summarize different perspectives on death and dying across cultures.
14. Explain the five stages of dying.

Course Content:

- A. Theories of aging
- B. Demographics of aging
- C. Welfare programs for aging Americans
- D. Psychological perspectives on aging
- E. Social aspects of aging
- F. Living arrangements for the aging
- G. Work and retirement
- H. Health and healthcare for the aged
- I. Caring for the frail elderly
- J. Dying, death, and bereavement

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by class participation, quizzes, written assignments, projects, and exams.

Instructional Materials:

Aging and the Life Course: An Introduction to Social Gerontology, Quadagno, 6th Ed., McGraw-Hill, 2013. ISBN-10: 0078026857 ISBN-13: 978-0078026850

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students **must** complete the "Disabilities Self-Identification Form" at this link: <https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services>.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.