

HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE NUMBER & TITLE: SOC 2300 - Aging

CREDITS: 3 (Lec 3/Lab 0)

PREREQUISITES: None

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Aging presents a study of aging in modern society. Biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives will be utilized to gain an understanding of the aging process and its impacts on the individual and society. MNTC goal area:(5)History/Social/Behavioral Sciences and (9)Ethic and Civic Responsibility.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

- I. Growing older in America
 - A. Personal and social definitions of age
 - B. Changing demographics
 - C. Ageism as a social problem
- II. Realities of growing older
 - A. Physical changes
 - B. Mental abilities and mental health
 - C. Social construction of age stereotypes
- III. Theories of adult development
 - A. Early development models
 - B. Transitions in adult life
 - C. Activity theory
 - D. Disengagement theory
 - E. Continuity theory
 - F. Exchange theory
- IV. Finance and lifestyles
 - A. Financial status
 - B. Social security and pensions
 - C. Medical expenses
 - D. Lifestyles of the poor
- V. Living environments of older Americans
 - A. Problems relocating
 - B. Housing options
- VI. Special Problems
 - A. Abuse and neglect
 - B. Crimes against the elderly
 - C. Aging criminals
 - D. Mental health and aging

- VII. Public policy and the politics of aging
 - A. Political activity
 - B. Programs for the elderly

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:

Students will

1. outline demographic changes and evaluate their impact.
2. outline historical perspectives on the elderly.
3. examine changing roles and perceptions of the elderly.
4. compare various theories of aging.
5. identify and discuss the many physical changes that accompany the aging process.
6. evaluate the relationship between cognitive abilities and age.
7. examine types of mental health problems of the elderly.
8. identify and evaluate the many myths that shape perceptions of the elderly.
9. explain the impact of modern medicine on the dying process.
10. identify the legal, medical, and moral questions surrounding euthanasia.
11. identify whom among the elderly are impoverished.
12. identify causes of poverty and the economic support systems available to the elderly.
13. trace the development of retirement and continuing changes in retirement patterns.
14. describe work roles of the elderly and the problems facing older job seekers.
15. identify housing options available to the elderly.
16. describe patterns of housing among the elderly.
17. identify formal and informal support systems available to the elderly.
18. describe special risks to the elderly such as abuse and criminal victimization.
19. identify those most at risk for criminal victimization.
20. identify the impacts of public policy on the elderly.

MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:

History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Ethical and Civic Responsibility

HCC COMPETENCIES MET:

Communicating Clearly & Effectively, Social / Civic Responsibility

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:

Students will

1. attend class regularly.
2. exhibit appropriate classroom behavior.
3. read all assigned material on a timely basis.
4. contribute to classroom discussion.
5. complete quizzes as assigned.
6. complete a research paper.
7. take written exams on scheduled dates.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE USING INSTRUMENTS
SELECTED/DEVELOPED BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR.**

AASC APPROVAL DATE: January 16, 2013

REVIEW DATE: January 2018

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