

SOCI 373: Sociology of Aging

The University of Calgary, Faculty of Arts, Department of Sociology
Course Outline, Fall Semester, 2014

Instructor Alex Bierman, Ph.D. Office: SS 902 Phone: 403-220-6226 E-mail: aebierma@ucalgary.ca Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 am – noon or by appointment	Lecture Schedule: 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays ES 162
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Required Texts

Novak, Mark, Lori Campbell, and Herbert C. Northcott. 2014. *Aging and Society: Canadian Perspectives, Seventh Edition*. Toronto: Nelson Education.

Course Description

This course examines the social dynamics of aging and the aging process. A variety of sociological perspectives will be employed to examine issues critical to older adults, including health and well-being, retirement, finances, leisure, death and dying, and family relationships.

Grading System

A+ = 95 and over	B+ = 80-84.9999	C+ = 67-71.9999	D+ = 54-58.9999
A = 90-94.9999	B = 76-79.9999	C = 63-66.9999	D = 50-53.9999
A- = 85-89.9999	B- = 72-75.9999	C- = 59-62.9999	F = 49.9999 and lower

Grade Distribution

Essays	40% (13%, 13%, and 14%)
Midterm	25%
Final	35%

If an opportunity for extra credit arises, this opportunity will be given to the class as a whole. Individual opportunities for extra credit or to make up points lost due to errors on an exam or essay will not be allowed. Consistent with departmental policy, class grades may be adjusted to keep with departmental norms.

Staying in Contact

Class announcements may occasionally be sent out over e-mail, so you'll need to make sure that the university has your correct e-mail address and that your e-mail account is in working order. I am happy to meet with students, but I prefer that you contact me by email for administrative purposes only unless I have specifically instructed you otherwise. For instance, you may email me to schedule an appointment outside of office hours. When e-mailing, please put "SOVI 373" in the subject line of your e-mail. I will make every effort to reply to your e-mails within 24 hours, but it may take up to 24 hours to respond.

Course Format

The course setup consists of two 1 hour and 15 minute class lectures per week.

Lecture notes

I will post PowerPoint slides on the course Blackboard for most of the class lectures, and you should print out these slides and bring them to class or have them available on an electronic device capable of note-taking. You will still need to take notes, even if you have the PowerPoint slides. There are no lecture notes besides the PowerPoint slides, so if you miss class you'll need to get the additional lecture notes from another student.

Exams

Exams will be made up of short answer questions (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, etc). The midterm is *tentatively* scheduled for October 14th. The final will be cumulative and will be registrar-scheduled. The midterm exam will begin right at the beginning of class, and will be intended to take the entire class period. If you arrive late for an exam, you will not be given additional time for an exam, regardless of what time you arrive to take an exam. If you believe that you may have an emergency which will interfere with your performance on the exam, or you arrive late because of an emergency, you need to talk to me about it before you take the exam.

Essays

You will be required to write three essays for this class. Each essay will be between 1,000 and 1,200 words, and will require you to apply class material to a sociological problem or piece of research. All essays should be type-written and double-spaced. *Tentative* due dates for the essays are October 2nd, October 30th, and December 2nd. You will be given the specific assignment at least a week before the due date.

Academic Dishonesty

Instances of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment or exam in which the cheating occurs. Using work which is not your own is academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty of this type includes: Having someone else do work and claiming the work as your own, or copying other students' work. Other types of academic dishonesty include gaining access to materials before they are given. This is not an exhaustive list of activities which may fall under the category of academic dishonesty. If you are not sure whether an action would be academic dishonesty, please ask before you take this action.

How are Grade Disputes Handled?

Students are encouraged to resolve grade disputes by discussing the situation with the instructor. Please do so in person. At this meeting, the student's arguments will be carefully considered and, hopefully, a resolution attained that meets with mutual satisfaction. A student seeking reappraisal of graded exams must discuss this work with the instructor within two weeks of the date the exam is handed back. However, please note that, consistent with Faculty of Arts regulations, the entire exam will be remarked and the mark may be raised, lowered or remain the same.

Course Notes:

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. Academic Misconduct: Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>
3. Protection of Privacy: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. "If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment."
4. Ethical Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.
5. Deferrals: If possible, please provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student. If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a "make up" test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology. Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf> Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).
6. Student Representation: The 2014-15 Students' Union VP Academic's email is: Hana Kadri suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>
7. Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at [*location*]. Please check these

assembly point locations for your other classes at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

8. Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.
9. Academic Accommodation: Students who require academic accommodation, must register with Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre) at MC 452 (or phone 403-220-8237). Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.