

SOCI 373: Sociology of Aging

The University of Calgary, Faculty of Arts, Department of Sociology
Course Outline, Winter Semester, 2018

<p>Instructor Alex Bierman, Ph.D. Office: SS 902 Phone: 403-220-6226 E-mail: aebierma@ucalgary.ca <i>Please note that e-mail is the best way to reach me. I cannot guarantee that phone calls will be answered or returned.</i> Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 am – noon or by appointment</p> <p>Teaching Assistant Jie Miao E-mail: jie.miao@ucalgary.ca Office: SS 945 Office Hours: By appointment.</p>	<p>Lecture Schedule: 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays ES 162</p> <p>Midterm: March 6th, during class.</p> <p>Final: Registrar-scheduled.</p>
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Required Texts

Funk, Laura. 2016. *Sociological Perspective on Aging*. Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Course Description and Objectives

This course examines the social dynamics of aging and the aging process. Sociological perspectives on aging—those that underscore how social conditions and contexts contribute to the aging process and experiences of older adults—will be of focus. At the end of this course, students should have an appreciation of the way that social structure shapes the aging process, in particular in regards to the way that sources of power, privilege, and prestige differentiate the aging experience in accordance with social stratification and inequality. Students should also be familiar with the major sociological theories in aging, as well as the governmental resources that are available to seniors.

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	30% (15% each)
Midterm	35%
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, you should 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 "SOC 373" in the subject line of your e-mail. I will make every effort to reply to your e-mails within 24 hours (not counting weekends), but it may take up to 24 hours to respond.

A Brief Note on Email Etiquette

When emailing your professor, your email should always contain certain elements. First, "SOC 373" should be in the subject line of the email. Second, your email should start out, "Dr. Bierman" or "Professor Bierman." You should then put the issue you are emailing about in the body of your email, using correct sentence structure, spelling, and punctuation. You should also sign your name and include your student number. Please note that your instructor may ask that you re-send your email if it does not conform to these specifications. In addition, emails that do not include "SOC 373" in the subject line may receive no response.

Course Format

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

Exams

Exams will be made up of short answer questions (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, etc.). The midterm is for March 6th. 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. The final will be registrar-scheduled.

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. Due dates for the essays are February 8th and March 22nd. You will be given the specific assignment at least a week before the due date.

Academic Dishonesty

Instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the faculty for adjudication and possible punishment. 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 Dr. Bierman before you take this action.

Grade Reappraisals

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must either submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark, or meet with the instructor and discuss the basis for reconsideration. In the event of an in-person meeting, the instructor may not make an immediate decision regarding a change of grade. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same. Please note that it is Dr. Bierman, not a TA, who is responsible for all grade reappraisals.

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-5.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 Faculty 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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>
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 https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.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 2017-18 Students' Union VP Academic is Tina Miller (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/ombuds/contact>
7. Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at ICT-Food Court. 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: The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.
10. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy. Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.