



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

SOCI 373 Sociology of Aging

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|---------------|---------------------------|----------|
| • Winter 2019 | • M/W/F 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm | • ST 141 |
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Instructor: Alex Bierman

Office: SS902

Email: aebierma@ucalgary.ca

Phone: 403-220-6226 (email is the best way to reach Dr. Bierman)

Office Hours: M & W 2:00-2:50 pm

Teaching Assistant: Daniel Stefulic

TA Email: ddsteful@ucalgary.ca

TA Office Hours: Office hours will be announced closer to the due date for the first essay.

Course Description

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.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

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.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

Novak, Mark, Herbert Northcott, and Lori Campbell. 2017. *Aging and Society: Canadian Perspectives, 8th Edition*. Nelson College Indigenous.

This text should be available in the U of C book store (please let me know if it is not). If you choose to purchase the text from a different outlet, make sure it is the edition we will be using in class. We will be using the **EIGHTH** edition of this textbook.

Methods of Evaluation

Essays. You will be required to write two essays for this class. Each essay will require you to address a question of interest in the sociology of aging or analyze a piece of research. All essays should be type-written and double-spaced. Due dates for the essays are March 1st and April 1st. You will be given the specific assignment at least two weeks before the due date.

Exams. We will have two midterms in this class, plus a final. However, please be aware that all exams are non-cumulative, with the result that the final should be similar in length and breadth of material covered to a midterm. The dates of the midterms are February 8th and March 15th. Each exam will be made up of short answer questions (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, etc.). The two midterm exams 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.

Extra Credit. Extra credit assignments are not typically offered, but if an opportunity for extra credit arises, this opportunity will be given to the class as a whole. Individual opportunities for extra credit will not be allowed.

Grade Distribution

Paper 1	13%
Paper 2	12%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Final Exam	25%

Final Exam Information

The final will be registrar-scheduled and will be an hour in length.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.9999%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.9999%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.9999%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.9999%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.9999%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.9999%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.9999%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.9999%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.9999%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.9999%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

PowerPoint slides will be posted on D2L for most of the class lectures as the class progresses. Students should print out these slides and bring them to class or have them available on an electronic device capable of note-taking. Students will still need to take notes, even if the PowerPoint slides are available. There are no lecture notes besides the PowerPoint slides, so a student who misses a class will need to get the additional lecture notes from another student. Students will be notified by email when a set of slides are posted to D2L. The email will also indicate the reading assignment that corresponds to the posted lecture. It is the student's responsibility to complete readings based on these assignments.

Grade Reappraisal

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

Email

Class announcements will 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 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 "SOCl 341" 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, "SOCl 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. If you are emailing an assignment, you should indicate that the assignment is attached and, if the assignment is deferred, the reason for the deferral. 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 "SOCl 373" in the subject line may receive no response.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Professional Faculties - Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **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.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Research Ethics

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.

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>

Absences and Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice 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. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment 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.

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 can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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).

Student Representation

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

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.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)