

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PSYC 336 GERONTOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The facts of demography describe the background and present status of elderly people in the United States. Then the biological, psychological and sociological factors in aging will be studied to promote an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of aging. The dying-grieving processes, as well as LTC policies and government-sponsored programs are explored.

RATIONALE

As the Baby Boomer generation enters retirement and old age, topics like Medicare and Social Security have risen to the forefront of national attention. The entrance of this large birth cohort into this phase of life has important implications for health care and the economy, among other issues. This course will seek to explain the process of aging so that students who interact with older adults will have a foundation upon which to base their relationships and work.

I. PREREQUISITE

None

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click the following link to view the required resources for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- B. Microsoft Word
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

- A. Discuss social gerontology including its origins and current areas of focus.
- B. Summarize the biological and physiological changes related to aging.
- C. Explain the cognitive changes that are linked with aging as well as the theories that explain such changes and adaptations.
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of the social context older adults experience, such as their living arrangements, employment, family supports and discrimination.
- E. Discuss the social policies and social problems affecting older adults in the U.S.
- F. Apply gerontological research and theory to real life situations involving older adults.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Discussion Board forums (3)

The Discussion Board forums for this class are located in Modules/Weeks 3–5. The original thread needs to be at least 300 words in length. Students must then submit a reply to at least one original thread from their fellow students. Replies must be at least 150 words, and one reply is due for each forum. APA citation style must be used for these Discussion Boards, and students must cite the textbook at least one time in each of their threads. Threads are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of the assigned module/week, and replies are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the same module/week.

C. Blog Entries (7)

Students will be required to maintain a weekly blog (in Blackboard) that notes instances in which they encounter some event that has relevance for their understanding of aging. In addition to the blog entries, students must comment on one of their fellow students' blogs each week (for a total of 7 comments). These comments need not be overly long, but they should be substantial. The blogs are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Weeks 2–7, and comments are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the same modules/weeks. In Module/Week 8 your blog is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Thursday, and comments are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.

D. Writing Assignment

Students will have the option to choose between completing either a five page research paper or an 8–10 page life story paper.

The research paper must be in APA format, with a title page, abstract and bibliography included. The title page, abstract and bibliography DO NOT count as part of the five pages. Students must have at least five references in this paper.

The life story paper needs to be in APA format as well, with a title page included. It is not necessary to have any citations in this paper.

This paper must be submitted through SafeAssign and is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 7.

E. Field Experience Project

This assignment requires the student to work with an older adult and keep a journal of the student's experiences. A one page Arrangement Description is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 2. The Final Submission is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

F. Exams (4)

Four comprehensive exams will be given in Modules/Week 2, 4, 6 and 8. These exams are based entirely on the textbook, and they are open-book. Each exam will include 50 multiple-choice and true-false questions, and students will have 70 minutes to finish the exam. There will be a deduction of one point per minute for going over the time limit. Exams 1-3 are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of their respective modules. Exam 4 is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Discussion Boards (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
Blogs (7 at 15 pts ea)	105
Writing Assignment	200
Field Experience Project	
Arrangement Description	5
Final Submission	140
Exams (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Total	1000

B. Scale

A = 900–1000 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at luoodas@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PSYC 336

Textbook: Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course: An Introduction to Social Gerontology* (2010).
HBO Films DVD set: Shriver, *The Alzheimer's Project* (2009).

WEEK/ MODULE	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Quadagno: chs. 1 & 4 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist	0
2	Quadagno: chs. 2 & 3 1 presentation	Blog Entry 1 Field Experience Project: Description Exam 1	15 5 100
3	Quadagno: chs. 5 & 14 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Blog Entry 2	50 15
4	Quadagno: chs. 6 & 7 HBO documentary 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Blog Entry 3 Exam 2	50 15 100
5	Quadagno: ch. 8 HBO documentary 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Blog Entry 4	50 15
6	Quadagno: chs. 9 & 10 1 presentation	Blog Entry 5 Exam 3	15 100
7	Quadagno: ch. 11 1 presentation	Blog Entry 6 Writing Assignment	15 200
8	Quadagno: chs. 12 & 13 1 presentation	Blog Entry 7 Field Experience Project: Submission Exam 4	15 140 100
TOTAL			1000

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.