Times  12:30-1:50 MW  Instructor:  James H. Swan
Class Room  Chilton 274  Phone:  (940) 565-3454
Office:  Chilton 302E  Fax:  (940) 565-4370
Office Hours  M, 2-4, or  E-Mail  swan@unt.edu
by arrangement

Description

The American (and world) population is aging; and many social factors (e.g., sex, race/ethnicity, social class) affect the experience of and results of aging. This course explores social issues related to aging and to successful aging, including what young adults should be doing now to ensure that they have happy, healthy, wealthy and creative golden years.

Expected Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe aging and stages of aging through the lifecourse.

2. Delineate major theories applicable to the social context of aging.

3. Consider societal responses to aging, needed changes in such responses, and implications of those responses for the aged.

4. Discuss major controversies related to aging, considering different positions on such controversies.

5. Analyze possible responses to issues facing the elderly.

7. Understand the importance of issues facing older Americans.

TEXT


There are additional readings, which will be made available, mostly through the course website.
Course Format

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

The course requirements and grading criteria are:

1. Midterm Exam – one week to respond               20%
2. Final Exam – one week to respond                 20%
3. Term Paper -- (see below)                        30%
4. Presentation -- (see below)                      10%
5. Discussion Board                                  15%
6. Class Participation                               5%

Exams: Essay tests will cover both materials in required readings and anything I discuss in lecture. The final will not be cumulative, covering only materials since the Midterm. The exams will be both distributed in class and posted on the web site, one week before the due date. E-mail responses to the address listed in this syllabus (swan@unt.edu), NOT to the WEBCTVISTA e-mail address.

Term paper: A term paper (8 to 10 pages) will be required, covering your Study Abroad experience as related to the literature and to theory, descriptions, and other materials from the class. Type (word process) term papers, double spaced. Statements of fact, data, and opinion of others must be supported by citations, in one of two forms: 1) in-text, with author and year in parentheses; or 2) numbered citations in order of appearance, with corresponding numbering in the references. Exact restatement of another's work is quotation, should be indicated and cited (in-text citations of quotes include page numbers of the quotes). Overenthusiastic quotation without attribution (plagiarism) is grounds at least for severe reduction in grade. Cite sources of assertions that are not either: (1) your own opinion, or (2) widely-known or common-sense knowledge (if in doubt, cite). Proper citation of sources does enter into the grade. A reference section at the end should list only sources cited. The text is not an acceptable source in a term paper. Tables from other sources or from others' data should have citations on the table and be listed in the reference section. At least some sources should be from the peer-reviewed literature: at least 5 such sources for graduate students, at least 3 for undergraduates. Web citations are fine, but be prepared to defend the validity of the source; provide the URL, and note when you last accessed the site. Citations of books are fine, but note that most books are not peer-reviewed literature. Other documents, particularly organizational documents, are acceptable. Citations of interviews you may have conducted are also acceptable. The paper will be graded on the quality of your sources (including adequacy of bibliographic references provided), the organization of the paper, and the quality of the paper. See the Guide to Term Papers handed out and on the website; and see Appendices A and B in the text.

Presentations: Each student will do one presentation to the class on a course topic, which may be but need not be the topic of the student’s term paper. Presentations will occur in the last four class sessions. The time available will depend on the number of students enrolled. Presentations will be judged primarily on the ability to convey information, more than on the content presented, but the content will be considered in grading. Use of PowerPoint is recommended.

Discussion Board: Topics will be posted to the class web site’s discussion board.’ You are responsible for participating in discussions. You can start your own threads under each topic.
Course Outline and Required Readings

1. Introduction  
   August 29

2. Aging and Society  
   Required: Moody, pp. 1-14.  
   August 31

3. The Aging Person  
   Required: Moody, pp. 15-25.  
   September 7

4. Why Aging (Controversy I)  
   September 12

5. Health Promotion with an Aging Society  
   Required: Moody, pp. 40-57.  
   September 14

6. Promoting Long Life  
   Required: Moody, pp. 58-73.  
   September 19

7. Physical Activity and Aging  
   Required: Swan, et al., 2008, Getting tougher for the fourth quarter:  
   boomers and physical activity, Journal of Aging & Physical Activity  
   16(3): 261-79.  
   Recommended: Friis, et al., 2003, Socioepidemiologic and health-related  
   correlates of walking for exercise among the elderly: results from the  
   Longitudinal Study of Aging, Journal of Aging and Physical Activity  
   September 21

8. Aging and Creativity (Controversy II)  
   Required: Moody, pp. 75-84.  
   September 26

9. Dr. Swan will be out of town (no class)  
   September 28

10. Lifelong Learning and Creativity (Controversy II)  
    October 3

11. Meaning in Old Age (Controversy III)  
    October 5

12. Socioeconomics  
    October 10

13. Diversity and Aging  
    Required: Grant et al., 2010, Outing Age: 2010, Pp. 7-41, 111-6.  
    October 12

14. Social Policy and Aging  
    Required: Moody, pp. 155-162.  
    October 17

MIDTERM HANDED OUT
15. Entitlement and Aging (Controversy IV)  
   **October 19**  
   **Required:** Moody, pp. 163-198.

16. Social Security (Controversy V)  
   **Required:** Moody, pp. 199-230.  
   **October 24**

17. Retirement (Controversy VI)  
   **Required:** Moody, pp. 231-266.  
   **MIDTERM EXAM DUE**  
   **October 26**

18. Health Care  
   **Required:** Moody, pp. 267-298.  
   **October 31**

19. Aging Entitlements  
   **Required:** Wacker & Roberto, 2008, *Community resources for Older Adults: Programs and Services in an Era of Change*, Chapt. 2.  
   **November 3**

20. Rationing of Health Care (Controversy VII)  
   **Required:** Moody, pp. 299-328.  
   **November 7**

21. Health Reform and Aging  
   **Required:** *to be determined by events.*  
   **November 9**

22. Burdens on Families (Controversy VIII)  
   **Required:** Moody, pp. 329-362.  
   **November 14**

23. Chronic Illness and Aging  
   **November 16**

24. Autonomy in Old Age (Controversy IX)  
   **Required:** Moody, Chapt. 3, pp. 363-388.  
   **November 21**

25. Suicide (Controversy X)  
   **Required:** Moody, 389-417.  
   **FINAL EXAM DUE**  
   **November 23**

26. Presentations  
   **November 28**

27. Presentations  
   **November 30**

28. Presentations  
   **December 5**

29. Presentations  
   **TERM PAPER DUE**  
   **December 7**

30. **FINAL EXAM DUE**  
    **December 14**