.University of North Texas
Applied Gerontology
AGER 4780
AGING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Times	Internet	Instructor:	James H. Swan
Class Room	Internet	Phone:	(940) 565-5434
Office:	Chilton 302E	Fax:	(940) 565-4370
Office Hours	MW, 3-5	E-Mail	swan@unt.edu

Description

This course is a survey course intended to provide an overview of the government programs for older people. We will examine the current providers, services, and policies addressing the needs of older Americans, with special attention given to income maintenance, health care, community-based services, and housing. This will be accomplished by reading from the text, written statements from the instructor, term papers, and discussion on an Internet discussion board. You will be expected to access the class website at least once a week (this will be checked for 'attendance') and to undertake the assignments: participate in the discussion board theme for each week (and continue to participate in previous or later themes as well); do the required readings; present to the class; and submit various assignments on time.

Expected Outcomes

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

1. Discuss at minimum cursory knowledge of the Older American Act and other public policy, and how such policy has supported and influenced care, support, and services provided to the older adult.

2. Identify patterns of service use and theories of health-seeking behavior by older adults.

3. Describe and discuss the continuum of services available to both the dependent and independent older adult.

4. Discuss the variety of housing and life-style options available to the older adult in both the private and institutional setting.

5. Explain future challenges for the Older American Act and other public policy.

6. Demonstrate awareness of public policy changes that may occur in future with regard to older adults.

TEXT

Wacker, R.R. & K.A. Roberto. 2008. Community resources for Older Adults: Programs and Services in an Era of Change. Third edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

The textbook is for sale at the bookstore. Other readings will be available on the course website, or may be accessed in the Library or via the web.

Course Format

This is an internet-based class with teacher preparations.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

The course requirements and grading criteria are:	Percentage of Grade
1. Mid-Term -- 2 weeks to complete	25%
2 Periodic Assignments	20%
3 Term Paper -- (typed, double spaced)	30%
4 On-line Participation – discussion board	25%

Exam: The mid-term essay exam covers materials in the required readings, due two weeks after posting. **Submit by e-mail to** swan@unt.edu. The exam is open-book and open-note but not open-collaboration.

Term paper: A term paper is required, 8-10 pages. (Any papers shorter than the minimum need to be very good.) A topic statement is due by February 3; an outline by February 17; a tentative bibliography (at least 8 entries) by March 16, and the paper by May 3. Only the paper is graded; I review earlier products for your edification and protection. Paper topics will be reviewed for applicability and viability of topic, but may be changed at any time by the student. **Submit by e-mail to** swan@unt.edu**.** Statements of fact, data, and opinion of others must be supported by citations, in one of two forms: 1) in-text (author, year); 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 (for 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 (if in doubt, cite). Tables from other sources should show citations. Some of the sources should be from the peer-reviewed literature. A reference section at the end should list **only sources cited**. **The textbook is NOT an acceptable source in a term paper**. Web citations are fine, but be able to defend the validity of the source; provide the URL, and note when you accessed the site. Citations of books are fine, but most books are not peer-reviewed. Other documents, particularly organizational documents, are acceptable. Citations of interviews you conduct are also acceptable. All cited sources should be in the References section, which should have a single list (do not separate out web-based versus print-based sources) of only those sources cited. This listing should provide all information needed to access the source – do not just list URLs alone. References for author/year citations should be organized alphabetically by author; those for numbered citations by numbering according to first appearance – the first source cited should be number one, and so on. Paper grades will depend heavily on the quality of the sources (including adequate references), and the organization and quality of the paper.

Periodic Assignments: Students are asked for two short (2-4 page) reports on specific topics, to be e-mailed to me. Students will be expected to complete two such assignments, due Weeks 7 and 15. The periodic assignments are described under the "Periodic Assignments" on the website for the appropriate weeks. Because these are written assignments, the citation and references issues are the same as for the term paper with the exception that the textbook is an acceptable source for a periodic assignment.

Online Participation: Participation on the Discussion Board is essential, required, and graded. The instructor will post a short set of issues for each week's topic to initiate a discussion thread starting that week. Responses to topic threads will be accepted for the balance of the semester. Students are also free to start their own threads. Grading will be based on each student's frequency and quality of participation on the discussion board. The website is your major connection to the class and the instructor; and online participation through the website, specifically on the Discussion Board, is **required and** will be graded. Note: do not e-mail me via the website address, only at swan@unt.edu; e-mails submitted at the website are subject to going totally unread.

Disabilities Accommodation:

The University of North Texas complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. UNT provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined under the law. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. The Internet format obviously accommodates many special needs. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please see the instructor and/or contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at 940-565-4323 during the first week of class.

Course Outline and Readings

1. Introduction/New Era **January 17-20**
   Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 1

2. Legislation **January 23-27**
   Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 2

3. Patterns and Theories (PAPER TOPICS) **January 30-February 3**
   Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 3

4. Information & Referral; Volunteers **February 6-10**
   Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapts. 4, 5

5. Education **(**PAPER OUTLINES) **February 13-17**
   (MID-TERM EXAM POSTED)
   Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 67

6. Employment & Income **February 20-24**
   Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapts. 8, 9

7. Nutrition, Health & Wellness (MID-TERM EXAM DUE) **February 27-March 2**
   Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapts. 10, 11

8. Mental Health **March 5-9**
   Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 12

9. Legal Services (BIBLIOGRAPHIES) **March 12-16**
   Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 13

10. Transportation **March 26-30**
    Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 14

11. Housing **April 2-6**
    Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 15

12. HCB Long-Term Care **April 9-13**
    Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 17
    Recommended: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 18

13. Case-Management **April 16-20**
    Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 16

14. Institutional Long-Term Care **April 23-27**
    Required: Wacker et al., Chapt. 19
    Swan et al., 2000, State Medicaid nursing facility reimbursement methods through 1997. *Medical Care Research & Review* 57(3): 361-78.

15. Senior Centers & Recreation **April 30-May 3**
    Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 7
    (TERM PAPERS DUE)

16. Finals Week (You should be done here, so go work on your other classes.) **May 7-11**