

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

Times Internet
 Class Room Internet
 Office: Chilton 302E
 Office Hours T, 3-5

Instructor: James H. Swan
 Phone: (940) 565-3454
 Fax: (940) 565-4370
 E-Mail: swan@unt.edu

About the Professor / Instructor

Dr. Swan's has a Ph.D. in sociology is from Northwestern University

(1981). He has been a Professor of Applied Gerontology at the University of North Texas since 2004. His major research area has been long-term care finance and policy but has in recent years developed research in physical activity & aging. His career has been in applied areas: doing health services research, and teaching in health administration, public health, and gerontology programs. Professionally, he has oriented to public health, long being active in the Aging and Public Health Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and served several years as one of that section's APHA Governing Councilors. In Texas, he has been active in the Texas Public Health Association (TPHA), currently as its President, on its executive board, governing council, and conference-planning committee. Dr. Swan has maintained a steady and active publication record for three decades, and annually presents at the APHA conference and other conferences. Dr. Swan's teaching interests have especially focused on research, social policy in aging, health and aging, and aging services. He has a strong commitment to global aging (and has taught courses in Mexico and Nigeria).

Syllabus and Timeline Change Policy

All important information for this course should be able to be found either in

this **Syllabus** or the accompanying **Timeline** (found at the end of the syllabus). Therefore, most questions about this course and the guidelines should be able to be answered with these two documents. The University attorney advises faculty members to notify students that the syllabus and timeline used for this course are not contracts and are therefore subject to change. The goal is to adhere to the schedules provided, but it is important to note that changes may be necessary to meet unforeseen needs and events. Announcements will be sent to let everyone know of any changes.

Access and Log in Information

This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of

North Texas' Learning Management System, Blackboard Learn. To get started with the course, please go to:
<https://learn.unt.edu>

You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to:

<http://ams.unt.edu>.

Student Resources

As a student, you will have access to:

- Student Orientation via Blackboard Learn. It is recommended that you

become familiar with the tools and tutorials within the Orientation to better equip you in navigating the course.

- Blackboard's [On Demand Learning Center for Students](#). It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course.
- From within Blackboard, you will have access to the “*UNT Helpdesk*” tab which provides student resources and Help Desk Information.

Being a Successful Online Student

-[What Makes a Successful Online Student?](#)

-[Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students](#)

How the Course is Organized

Relevant information is located on the home page. This course is structured

with weekly lectures from the instructor, plus weekly reading assignments from the required textbook and weekly required and recommended additional readings, plus weekly topics on the discussion board. Posting on the discussion board is a required and graded part of the course; and for an online class, “attendance in class” is defined as posting on the discussion board. Testing is via a midterm essay exam. Students are required to do a term paper plus an additional short paper or article review.

What Should Students Do First?

Students should first complete the Zip Code Survey located on the course

home page then carefully read the syllabus regarding course requirements and assignments and note the timeline and particular assignment and exam due dates. Students may make introductions by posting to other students their greetings on the discussion board. Any questions or queries may be directed to the instructor using the course email system.

How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities All weekly instructor lectures are in a folder off the home page, as are the weekly discussion board topics, and as are any recommended readings not in the textbook. Students should submit all assignments by their due dates. The completed midterm and both papers are to be emailed to the instructor at swan@unt.edu. Specific instructions regarding preparing and submitting assignments are given below.

Student Support

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Refer to the website (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm>) for updated hours.

Description

This course is an advanced 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; 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 -- (8-10 pages, typed, double spaced)	30%
4. On-line Participation – discussion board	25%

Exam: The mid-term exam covers materials in the required readings. Answer each subquestion of each question you select. The exam us an essay test – **submit by e-mail to swan@unt.edu**, due two weeks after posting. The exam is open-book and open-note but not intended to be 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 September 11; an outline by September 25; a tentative bibliography (at least 8 entries) by October 23, and the paper by December 3. Only the paper is graded; I review earlier products to provide you feedback. 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**, using APA format (author, year) or (author, year: page number) for citations of quotes. 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 knowledge (if in doubt, cite). Tables from other sources should show citations. **Some of the sources (at least 2) 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. **Paper grades will depend heavily on the quality of the sources (including adequate references), and the organization and quality of the paper. See the Guide to Papers.**

Periodic Assignments: Students are asked to make 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 criteria for term papers will be used **except** that the textbook can be a source for a periodic assignment.

Online Participation: Participation on the Discussion Board is essential, required, and graded – it is the equivalent of attending and participating in the classroom in classes with a classroom format. The instructor will post a short summary of each perspective paper 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 with short summaries from their perspectives papers. Grading will be based on each student's participation on the discussion board, with extra weight given to the initiation of new threads. 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.

Late Assignments: I accept late assignments and do not automatically reduce grades for late receipt, within reason. However, **I do not promise to grade any assignment received (or discussion posted) after December 11.**

Disabilities Accommodation:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the

authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Course Outline and Readings

1. <u>Introduction/New Era</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 1	August 24-28
2. <u>Legislation</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 2	Aug. 31-Sept. 4
3. <u>Patterns and Theories</u> (PAPER TOPICS) Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 3	September 7-11
4. <u>Information & Referral; Volunteers</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chaps. 4, 5	September 14-18
5. <u>Education</u> (PAPER OUTLINES) Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chaps. 6, 7	September 21-25
6. <u>Employment & Income</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chaps. 8, 9 MID-TERM EXAM POSTED	Sept. 28-Oct. 2
7. <u>Nutrition, Health & Wellness</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chaps. 10, 11	October 5-9
8. <u>Mental Health</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 12 MID-TERM EXAM DUE	October 12-16
9. <u>Legal Services</u> (BIBLIOGRAPHIES) Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 13	October 19-23
10. <u>Transportation</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 14	October 26-30
11. <u>Housing</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 15	November 2-6
12. <u>HCB Long-Term Care</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 17 Recommended: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 18	November 9-13
13. <u>Case-Management</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 16	November 16-20
14. <u>Institutional Long-Term Care</u> Required: Wacker et al., Chapt. 19	November 23-25
15. <u>Senior Centers</u> Required: Wacker & Roberto, Chapt. 7 (TERM PAPERS DUE)	Nov. 30-Dec. 3
16. Review, Finish on Discussion Board (finals week)	December 7-11

TO COUNT TOWARD A GRADE, ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY December 11

