



Wayne County Community College District

COURSE SYLLABUS

GER 110 Introduction to The Study of Aging

CREDIT HOURS: 3.00

CONTACT HOURS: 45.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introduction to the major issues in the field of gerontology with emphasis on the normal process of aging. Topics include physiology, psychology, economics, political issues, demography, sociology, education and community programs.

PREREQUISITES: NONE

EXPECTED COMPETENCIES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be familiar with:

- Classify and describe the average demographic characteristics of the America senior population.
- Characterize the basic social roles, status and conflicts encountered across the “natural history” of the life cycle.
- Identify and describe the biological, sensory and psychological changes that occur with aging.
- Explain the positive and negative influences that family and community structure can have on the well being of the elderly.
- Explore social and cultural practices surrounding death and dying and the treatment of the elderly crime victims.
- Examine how economic position influences status and the well being of America’s elderly.
- Analyze the special social problems encountered by seniors from minority backgrounds while comparing cross cultural aging patterns.
- Discuss advocacy programs and services and the impact that the agencies have on the elderly.
- Summarize pertinent local, state and federal legislation that is relevant to the aging population.
- Examine the history and development of America’s “age-based social movements” from 1930.
- Evaluate the importance of the movement in light of the alderfly’s current social status.
- Identify and describe the positive functions that educational religious and recreational associations can have in facilitating well-being in later life.

ASSESSMENT METHODS:

Student performance may be assessed by examination, quizzes, case studies, oral conversation, group discussion, oral presentations. The instructor reserves the option to employ one or more of these assessment methods during the course.

GRADING SCALE:

90%-100% = A
80%-89.9%= B
70%-79.9%= C
60%-69.9%= D
<60% = E