SOCI 3383 Aging and Society (CRN34898, 253)

Spring 2025
Monday/Wednesday 11:00am–12:20pm
Trauth-Huffman Hall (THH; previous Undergraduate Academic Center) Room #411

Please note that both the syllabus and scheduled content might change, and I reserve the right to make changes with prior notice to you.

Instructor: Dr. Xi Pan (She 'Series')
Email: x_p5@txstate.edu
Office: THH 458
Office Phone: (512) 245-3288
Office Hours: **Monday 2:00-3:00pm**. **in person or via Zoom by appointment**.
Zoom link: https://txstate.zoom.us/j/86940886970

I **only** respond emails between **Monday and Friday.** Questions sent on Friday will be addressed by the following Monday. I will try to respond within 48 hours.

Teaching Assistant: Jack Donohue (He 'Series')
Email: exb24@txstate.edu
Office: THH 427
Office hours: **11:00am-12:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays via Zoom by appointment.**
Zoom link: https://txstate.zoom.us/j/7495732044?pwd=32qzp0Yb1z5S8nXE4bLWMbzUct0RFy.1

Sociology Department Phone: (512) 245-2113
Sociology Department Fax: (512) 245-8362

Course Description

This course is an overview of the process of aging primarily in American society. Emphasis placed on aspects of aging from three perspectives: the aging individual, social context of aging, and societal responses to an aging population.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Examine sociocultural, behavioral, and psychological perspectives on aging and older adults in American society and internationally
- Learn theories, concepts, frameworks, and research of gerontology
- Explain how society structures the experience of aging and the aged, especially in relation to gender, social class, and race/ethnicity
- Engage in critical thinking in order to gain a deeper and broader understanding of various aspects of the aging process

Keys to Success in this Course

Aging and Society is **NOT an easy A course**. It is an **upper undergraduate level** course in Sociology, which requires your full attention and hard work this semester. Some of the basic suggestions to follow include:

- Read assigned materials before class.
- Attend all classes.
- Think critically.

- Develop your own notes and other study aids.
- Engage with other learners.
- Reflect and act on what you learn.
- Seek help from your professor and teaching assistant.
- Use your laptop or PC or the university computer (if you don't have your own) rather than your phone.

Reading Materials

Required Text: Jill Quadagno. Aging and the Life Course: An introduction to Social Gerontology. McGraw-Hill, 8th Edition. (Access link to the book is provided under **Modules**: **Course Materials** in Canvas). **Two copies of the texts** are also available at the **Course Reserve** desk in the **Alkek library** and may be checked out in two-hour increments.

See the **Calendar** for the reading assignments. **You are expected to read the assigned texts before attending each lecture**. While focusing on the required texts, we will discuss additional relevant information and topics using research articles.

Course Site: Canvas

I use Canvas to enhance the course, to communicate with you more effectively and efficiently via announcements, and to post grades. Go to the Texas State homepage to find Canvas. You will need a Texas State email address and a password in order to access this site. Students are expected to be comfortable in the use of this technology. If you have problems with accessing or using Canvas, please call 24/7 IT Assistance Center (ITAC) 512-245-4822 first or use LiveChat: https://livechat.tr.txstate.edu (more assistance can be found at https://itac.txstate.edu/contact). Then if they can't help, you send me an email with fully identifying the problem that you are having. **All students are also expected to check the course site on a regular basis**.

Announcements posted in Canvas are functionally equivalent to in-class announcements. Any announcement posted within 24 hours before the next scheduled class date may be deemed applicable and binding for that next class.

****Important note**: Do **Not turn off the Announcements function** on your Canvas course site. **Any missing assignments due to turning off the Announcements function by students themselves are not negotiable for makeups.**

Students with Special Needs

If you are a student with a disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact me as soon as possible so as not to delay your accommodations. You need to provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services (Suite 5-5.1, LBJ Student Center; Phone 512-245-3451; Fax 512-245-3452; Office Hours Monday to Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Website http://www.ods.txstate.edu/).

New policy added in fall 2016, (a) students must submit requests for testing at least 72 business hours in advance, and (b) faculty must submit tests by noon the day before a test is to be administered. These changes are prompted in part by a 33% increase in the number of students using ATSD services.

Course Requirements

****If you have questions about assignment due dates and how to turn in your assignments, refer to the syllabus.**

1. Attendance

You are expected to **attend all classes** of the semester. Attendance is not just the number of times that a person comes to class. It includes **being punctual and paying full attention until class is dismissed**. **Coming to class for being 15-minute late or leaving class early without my prior permission is considered absence**. I will not grade your attendance, but use it to record and track your attendance for each class over the semester for recordkeeping purposes. **Students who attend ≥ 95% of classes (or missing less than 5 classes) throughout the semester will earn bonus points at the end of the semester**.

I reserve the right to dismiss you from class if you are disruptive to me and other students in class - talking, coming in late on a regular basis, using the mobile phone including texting, surfing social media websites (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.), shopping online, or working on something unrelated to class etc., which also violates the sociology departmental electronic device policy (see below).

"A student may not use an electronic device during class time without the express permission of the instructor. Use of cell/smartphones during class time is always prohibited, as is leaving the room to answer or make a call."

You do not need to contact me, my TA, or the department office administrators about a class absence **UNLESS** your absence is due to a **legitimate emergency** (i.e., hospital stay, death in the immediate family, or religious holidays). **If you are absent, you are still responsible for making up all materials covered in the class**. **I do not give out my slides or notes**. If you are unable to attend a class, you need to get the notes from a classmate.

2. Academic Etiquette

All students are expected to follow the Code of Student Conduct
http://www.dos.txstate.edu/handbook/rules/cosc.html and the Honor Code
http://www.txstate.edu/honorcodecouncil/Academic-Integrity.html

**** Please put "Aging and Society 253" in your subject line when sending emails**. **Use** "**Hi, Dr. Pan/Professor**" and **Never** use "**Hey**" to start your email. Use a **professional communication style** when asking questions and writing assignments and emails**.** Disrespectful behaviors and languages are against the Code of Student Conduct and the Honor Code.

Guidelines for Professional Email Communication

Treat your emails for this course as professional communications. **Professional email** (email written to professors, supervisors, or classmates in a professional setting) is **NOT** an **appropriate venue for expressing anger, complex feelings, or venting about others**. Instead, think of each email as a strategic career event that represents you and creates a permanent record of your accomplishments, attitude, and professionalism.

Academic Freedom and Intellectual Interaction

Freedom of speech and ideas is a basic principle of academic life. Please **listen carefully** to your classmates and **respect** other viewpoints. Every student will have a chance to express her/his view as long as it is communicated in a **civil manner**, and no one should dominate discussions. Furthermore, intellectual interaction and a healthy academic environment require that we address and refer to each other with utmost politeness, cordiality, and an appropriate tone of speech. Conversely, **engaging in derogatory statements, hate speech, interruptions, heckling, or in belittling ideas with which one disagrees will not be tolerated**.

Grading
Your grade is based on the following:

Categories	**Point grade**	**Percent grade**
3 Homework	80 points	20%
Midterm exam	85 points	21%
13 Discussions	135 points	34%
Final exam	100 points	25%
Total	400 points	100%

Four-point grading is used by Texas State University. Letter grades are given in the usual manner based on your weighted percentages (90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, 59% and lower = F). For example, if you get 80 points (A) for your midterm exam, your weighted percentage for the midterm is 21% out of 100%. At the end of the semester, all of your **weighted percentages** are added to calculate your final grade.

Grades are NOT negotiable. Grades are based on both **quantity** and **quality** of your work. Students need to make effort to earn a certain grade for this course (e.g., to maintain a scholarship, to graduate, or to maintain your academic status for athletics or otherwise). **I do not give incompletes or "I" grade for this course.** You must drop before the deadline for the Automatic "W". If you do not feel that you can finish the requirements of this course, then you should drop the course by the Texas State University guidelines. I do **NOT discuss or give out grades over the phone or by e-mail** to protect student confidentiality. I would be more than happy to **answer any questions on grading in person or via Zoom.**

1. Homework with instructions **(under Assignments on Canvas)**
The purpose of homework is to enhance students' understanding of gerontological knowledge and practice their critical thinking. Each homework consists of a few short answer questions, which cover content from the assigned texts. **Homework including late homework should be submitted in Canvas**. Homework is usually **due by 11:59pm. on Monday**. Please refer to the **Calendar** for specific homework due dates. **All homework must be submitted on time**. **Late homework within 2 days after the due day** will be **punished with 2-point deduction per day. I do NOT accept any homework delayed for more than 2 days after the due day (this is not negotiable)**.

2.**Exams (under Quizzes on Canvas)**

***** Make sure you schedule your courses and other life events properly in advance to accommodate your exams for this course.**

There are two exams: one midterm and one final. Study guides for both exams will be provided one week before the scheduled dates of exams under **Modules**. Both exams consist of true-or-false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. The midterm exam is scheduled for 1.5 hours and the final exam is scheduled for 2.5 hours. **Both exams are open-book online exams**. See the **Calendar** for the dates of exams.

The **midterm** exam can be made up **ONLY for legitimate emergency** (i.e., hospital stay, death in the immediate family, assigned athletic competitions, or religious holidays). In case of a legitimate emergency, you should:

1) **Email me to let me know prior to the exam** except only for unavoidable, rare circumstances.
2) Have a valid, written, and verifiable **written excuse** (e.g., documentation of your stay in the hospital, obituary and funeral program for death in the family); and
3) **Receive my email response as written permission** to miss the exam.
4) Once get my permission, take the **paper-pencil based make-up midterm** on **March 19th (exam time is based on request)** in the text room of the Sociology department on the 4th floor of UAC. Please email me at least **48 hours ahead to reserve a time slot for your make-up midterm**.

****Important note:** The **final exam** is **cumulative (**will cover all chapters and assigned readings of the semester**)** and **CAN NOT be made up or rescheduled.**

3. Discussions with instructions **(under Modules on Canvas)**
This course emphasizes class participation and **discussion activities count as class participation so they cannot be made up**. Students access discussion activities via Modules and complete them after class in Canvas. Each student is assigned to a group based by his/her last name and expected to stay with that group throughout the semester. For all discussions, each group will be assigned a topic (topics might vary by group) and students only need to complete assignments for their own group. **No cross-group conversation is needed**.

To **complete** each discussion assignment, students **MUST 1) reply to the instructor's prompt, AND 2) select and reply to one post within their group by 11:59pm. on Friday**. If you miss any discussion for any non-emergency reason (e.g., receiving a traffic ticket, not setting an alarm, forgetting, having no Internet connection or computers, having a conflict work schedule etc.), you will receive a zero for that discussion. However, **ONE missing** discussion is allowed throughout the semester and the missing discussion be excused from your final grade, **if you have a legitimate emergency** (i.e., hospital stay, death in the immediate family, or religious holidays).

Lecture Materials (under Modules on Canvas)
This course consists of 15 modules covering 16 chapters of the textbook and the related materials. A **brief version** of PowerPoint slides (PDF) that highlight the key content of each chapter and the related materials will be posted prior to each scheduled lecture under Modules. **Students are expected to use the slides (PDF) to take notes**. The PowerPoint slides are **NOT** repetition of the book chapters or the related materials but the study guide to enhance understanding of gerontological knowledge. Therefore, students are **NOT** supposed to rely on the PowerPoint slides only without reading any assigned materials to succeed the course.

Copyright of My PowerPoint Slides

****You are NOT authorized to take pictures of my slides, post the pictures or copies of my slides on the Internet, social media or any other places, or share copies of my slides and notes to anyone outside of the class, or to make any commercial use of them without my prior permission**.

All PowerPoint slides are my own original expression and protected by the U.S. copyright law. Although you are authorized to take notes and create a derivative work from my slides, the authorization extends only to making one set of notes for your own personal use and no other use. You are authorized, however, to share my notes in the slides with other students in the class.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty refers to a variety of transgressions such as cheating on a test to committing plagiarism for a written assignment. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limit to:

- **Misusing artificial intelligence (AI) to complete your assignments, for examples**:
  - **a.** Generating entire essays or sections of an assignment using an AI tool and submitting them as one's own work
  - **b.** Paraphrasing large chunks of text from existing sources using an AI tool without proper attribution/citation
  - **c.** Using an AI to "polish" existing writing by significantly changing sentence structure and wording without disclosing the AI's contribution
  - **d.** Using an AI to generate creative content like stories that closely resembles existing works without attribution/citation
- Downloading or buying a research paper
- Cutting and pasting information from several sources to create a paper
- Leaving out quotation marks around quoted material, placing quotation marks around some but not all copied information
- Leaving out quotation marks around copied information but adding a citation implying that the information is the student's summary of the source
- Leaving out quotation marks for more than three consecutive words taken directly from a source
- Providing a reference/bibliography page but leaving out the reference citation in the body of the paper
- Faking a citation
- Unintentionally using words or ideas or quotes without citing them in the body of the paper and on the reference/bibliography page (http://www.virtualsalt.com/antiplag.htm)

Any student found in violation of academic dishonesty will receive an "F" in the course. The Sociology Department assumes that it is the responsibility of each student to know what constitutes academic dishonesty. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism or having plagiarized in the past without having been penalized does not excuse such acts in the Department of Sociology. Any student charged with plagiarism may appeal in writing in accordance with Texas State University policy. University statements regarding academic dishonesty can be found at the following Websites:
http://www.txstate.edu/honorcodecouncil/Academic-Integrity.html (Texas State Academic Honor Code)
http://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/07-10-01.html (Academic Honesty, UPPS No. 07.10.01)

Calendar

****I reserve the right to alter the reading assignments and lecture topics if needed.**

Weeks	Due Dates	Reading Materials and Discussions
Week 1 1/13 1/15		Chapter 1: The Field of Social Gerontology Discussions: *Introduction* *Age and ageism* Chapter 2: Life Course Transitions Discussions: *Life course*
Week 2 1/20 1/22		**No Class (Martin Luther King Day)** Chapter 4: Demography of Aging Discussions: *Aging societies*
Week 3 1/27 1/29		Chapter 6: Biological Perspectives on Aging Discussion: *Biological aging and driving* Chapter 7: Psychological Perspectives on Aging
Week 4 **2/3** 2/5	**HW#1 (feedback is available on 2/10)**	Chapter 3: Theories of Aging Discussions: *Continuity theory* *Age stratification theory* *Feminist theory*
Week 5 2/10 2/12		Chapter 10: Work and Retirement Chapter 14: Economics of Aging Discussions: *Financing retirement*
Week 6 2/17 2/19		Chapter 14: Economics of Aging Discussions: *Financing retirement* Chapter 16: Politics of Aging
Week 7 **2/24** 2/26	**HW#2 (feedback is available on 3/3)**	Chapter 15: Poverty and Inequality Discussions: *Poverty and inequality*
Week 8 **3/3** 3/5	**Midterm (feedback is available on 3/21)**	Chapter 5: Old Age and the Welfare State
Week 9 3/9-3/16		**No Class (Spring Break)**
Week 10 3/17 3/19		Chapter 9: Living Arrangement Chapter 11: Health and Health Care
Week 11 **3/24** 3/26	**HW#3 (feedback is available on 3/31)**	Chapter 8: Family Relationships and Social Support Discussions: *Social support*

Week 12 3/31-4/2		Movie Week (streaming URL to the movie will be provided) *Discussions on the movie*
Week 13 4/7-4/9		Chapter 12: Caring for the Frail Elderly Discussions: *Caring for frail older adults*
Week 14 4/14-4/16		Chapter 13: Dying, Death, and Bereavement
Week 15 4/21 4/23		Cross-Cultural Perspective of Aging Reading Day (online) Discussions: *Cross-cultural perspective of aging*
Week 16 4/28		**Last Class: Comprehensive Review**
5/5, Monday, 8:00-10:30am.	**Final Exam (online)**	

Appendix

Document your sources by citing them properly in text and attach a reference list as instructed below (APA style). Otherwise, you will be penalized for committing plagiarism. Basic instructions and examples of APA style can be found as follows, but I recommend the Purdue Online Writing Lab for more examples and instructions of APA style. **https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/1/**

1) You must cite the articles you use. Citations in the text will look like this: (Author's last name, year published) [for example: (Sarkisian, Gerena, & Gerstel, 2007)].
2) When using the Webpage with no author, cite the first few words of the reference list entry, which is often the title, in double quotation marks, and the year: ("Shortened Title," year published) [for example: ("U.S. Crime," 2013)].
3) **ALL word-for-word, direct quotes should be put in quotation marks** and followed by the author's last name, year of publication, and pager number in parentheses [for example: (Sarkisian, Gerena, & Gerstel, 2007, p. 41) and the author's last name and year published in parentheses for a Website source [for example: (Denyer, 2013)]
4) Direct quotes of more than three lines must not be used, given the short length of this written assignment. Points will also be deducted when too many direct quotes are used.
5) If you summarize, in your own words, the phrases or ideas of another person, you do not have to use quotation marks, but you still need to cite the source, by indicating the author's last name and year of publication.
6) The reference list must include authors' names (the last name of the first author, the initials of the first author's first and middle names, followed by other authors' names), the year of publication in parentheses, the title of the article, and the name of the journal (*italicized*) followed by the volume number and the page numbers of the article. It should give enough information that a reader could find the source. An example is given below:

Denyer, S. (2013). India's media fuel outrage over soldier's beheading, but real story may be more complex. Retrieved January 10, 2013, from http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/india-media-fuels-outrage-over-beheading-but-real-story-may-be-more-complex/2013/01/10/ef03472e-5b2b-11e2-9fa9-5fbdc9530eb9_story.html

Sarkisian, N., M. Gerena, & N. Gerstel. (2007). Extended family integration among Euro and Mexican Americans: Ethnicity, gender, and class. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 69*, 40-54.

U.S. crime and punishment. (2013). Retrieved January 10, 2013, from http://www.poodwaddle.com/clocks/worldclock/