GERONTOLOGY: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

SYLLABUS

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<td>August</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>Biological Gerontology Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Psychological Gerontology Lecture</td>
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<td>(DUE: Bio-papers)</td>
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<td>Student Presentations (Psychological)</td>
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<td>05</td>
<td>Student Presentations (Sociological)</td>
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<td>06</td>
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<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM 10:30am - 3:00pm</td>
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ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Teaching Assistant:** Dr. Alex Thome (thome.alex@gmail.com)

**Administrative Support:** Michelle Carroll (626-2312) - questions about getting to Life Sciences North, getting access to class materials, help with FTP server, assistance in uploading and printing oral presentation, help in arranging appointments with Dr. Barnes or Dr. Thome.

**Course Description**

This course is a selective examination of three primary research areas in the field of gerontology: biological, psychological and sociological. There will be two main lectures introducing each of these areas, followed by student presentations of classic and current research reports in the respective areas.

Because there is no one text available that adequately covers the material in the course, I make some suggestions below on materials available in the library that should be helpful (see Recommended Reading List) to assist in understanding the lectures and research papers. Students are expected to become familiar with these books as necessary, and any others they may find in the library, for clarification of course material. If these reference books do not contain the information you need, I will also permit individuals to use source books that I keep in my office for short periods of time.

There is no specific reading required before the class lectures; however, I would recommend that you do some reading on your own if your background is deficient in any of these areas. On the other hand, all students are required to read each of the research articles listed in the Required Reading List.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

There will be a total of eight oral presentations for each of the three main topics covered (assuming that there will be 24 students in the class). Each student will choose **one topic to present orally, and to write an essay on**, based on the assigned readings for the chosen topic. For each presentation there will be one (or a few) central papers that the class should all read (prior to the date listed in the reading list). Each "presenter" should read the paper and use supplementary material (such as that found in the paper's reference section; or additional material on the topic acquired by library search [www.library.arizona.edu] which you should all have access to, or recommended through discussion with me) to explain the main article in the **20 minute oral presentation**.

At the end of the talk, the student will provide the class with an **essay question** based on his or her paper, which should be designed to extract its main theme or relevance to gerontology. Some of these questions will be chosen as examination questions on the Midterm or Final Exams.
DISCUSSANTS

While the whole class will be responsible for reading the papers and formulating questions concerning both methodology and central issues raised by the paper, four people will be directly responsible for raising questions and leading the discussion about any one group's papers. For example, the four students giving oral presentations of topics on September 12 in the Biological Section will be given questions from each of the four students giving oral presentations on September 19. The four "oral presenters" on September 19 will be questioned by the four students who gave oral presentations on September 12. The same format will be used for the Psychological and Sociological presentations on their respective dates. There will be approximately 10 minutes of discussion time after each oral paper presentation, during which time the discussion leaders will be evaluated.

ESSAY

From the main paper and oral presentation topic, the "presenter" shall write a five-page (10-page for graduate students) essay which includes:

1) a concise statement of the problem that the paper(s) addresses,
2) a concise statement of methods used in the experiments,
3) a summary and critique of the findings and conclusions,
4) a summary of how the data (from the relevant field) contribute to our understanding of aging,
5) and finally, reference materials used to prepare the essay should be listed at the end.

CLASS ATTENDANCE, EXAMS, AND GRADING SYSTEM

Class participation in the student oral presentations is essential, and attendance of those six classes will be considered mandatory. I will deduct points from your grade total for any of those classes missed unless you see me and negotiate an exception because of health or other reasonable problems. The grading will be as outlined below, and the final grade will be given on a straight percentage basis. The Midterm and Final Examinations will be based on the preceding lectures and materials in the student oral presentations (i.e., the Final Exam is not cumulative). The exams will each be of the essay type. Extra credit points can be arranged (if you feel unsatisfied with your grade, or if you want to increase your points for any reason) either by giving an extra oral presentation or possibly by writing an extra essay.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me so that we can discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that disability-related accommodations are necessary, please register with Disability Resources (621-3268; drc.arizona.edu) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.
OVERVIEW OF EXPECTATIONS from each class member:

1) Familiarize yourself with the Recommended Readings so that you will know which ones will be useful for reference or explanation of course materials.

2) You must ATTEND ALL student presentation days (Sept 12, Sept 19, Oct 10, Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 5).

3) You must READ ALL of the articles in the Required Reading List.

4) You must choose ONE topic to present yourself.

5) You will give ONE oral presentation on that topic area.

6) At the end of that oral presentation you will give the class a potential examination question on the topic.

7) On the date specified in the syllabus you will turn in a written essay on the topic of your oral presentation (e.g., Bio- Sept 26; Psych- Oct 31; Soc- Dec 6).

8) You will also be given a designated group for which you will act as one Discussion Leader (of 4).

9) There will be one Midterm and one Final exam.

10) Students wishing to obtain extra credit points, for any reason, should see me to determine what arrangements might be made.

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Discussion</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
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A+ = 500-485  C+ = 399-385
A  = 484-465   C  = 384-365
A- = 464-450   C- = 364-350
B+ = 449-435   D+ = 349-335
B  = 434-415   D  = 334-315
B- = 414-400   D- = 314-300
F = 299 and below
RESOURCE READING MATERIAL – The books and reference materials listed below should be helpful for understanding course material, or for your own interest. Some of them are available online (LIBRARY eBook) or in various libraries across campus (MAIN LIBRARY, AHSL, SCIENCE), and some are Dr. Barnes’ personal books (BARNES) that she can make available to you upon contacting her.


**REQUIRED READING LIST**

I. BIOLOGICAL SECTION

**SEPT 12** (Persons presenting these topics will be DISCUSSANTS on topics 5-8, September 19)


**Sept 19** (Persons presenting these topics will be DISCUSANTS on topics 1-4, September 12)


II. PSYCHOLOGICAL SECTION

OCT 10 (Persons presenting these topics will be DISCUSSIONS on topics 5-8, October 24)


Oct 24 (Persons presenting these topics will be DISCUSSANTS on topics 1-4, October 10)


III. SOCIAL SECTION

Nov 28 (Persons presenting these topics will be discussants on topics 5-8, December 5)


Dec 05 (Persons presenting these topics will be DISCUSSANTS on topics 1-4, November 28)


