



SWK 597: Gerontology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: **Benjamin May, LCSW, PhD**
Office Location: **Henderson Rm 323A**
Office Hours: **Monday: 10am-12pm**
Office Phone: **903-886-5512**
Email Address: **Benjamin.may@tamuc.edu**
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email, Telephone, and Zoom**
Communication Response Time: **24 hours except weekends**

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Robnett, R.H., Brossoie, N, & Chop, W.C. (2020). Gerontology for Health Care Professionals (*4th ed.*). Jones & Bartlett, MA.

****Other readings may be assigned during this course****

Software Required –Word, Adobe PDF, D2L

Optional Texts and/or Materials -

Course Description

Effective social work practice requires a knowledge and understanding of multi-cultural groups. The course will focus on working with the ageing. Students will move beyond comparative thinking as it relates to diversity to inclusive thinking which requires an examination of those institutional factors which contribute to and maintain social oppression, social injustice, social inequality for the ageing. A socio-historical perspective will be presented in order to understand present day challenges facing the ageing. Strategies employed to combat social inequality will be examined from a macro-micro focus.

Class: 3 hours Credit: 3 semester hours.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES:

PROGRAM GOALS:

1. Prepare MSW graduates for professional advanced generalist practice that reflects application and integration of critical thinking, theoretical frameworks, and differential interventions.
2. Enable MSW graduates to apply ethical reasoning to advance equality, justice, and social change.
3. Promote leadership and service that is relevant to individual contexts of practice and enhances well-being and quality of life.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires a competency-based approach to identify and assess what students demonstrate in practice. In social work, this approach involves assessing students' ability to demonstrate the competencies identified in the educational policy. Students achieve programmatic goals listed above through demonstration of the following competencies for Advanced Generalist Practice (AGP). Students achieve programmatic goals listed above through demonstration of the following **bolded competencies** for Advanced Generalist Practice (AGP).

Student Learning Outcomes (Practice Behaviors)

Each competency (outlined above) describes the knowledge, values, skills and cognitive and affective processes that compromise competency at the Advanced

Generalist Practice (AGP) level. While content and activities of each course in the MSW curriculum covertly or overtly addresses each of the nine competencies, identified within each course is a set of specific practice behaviors representing observable components of one for more competencies. Content and Assessment in this course reflect the following practice behaviors:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

In this class, you will utilize the Learning Management Systems (LMS) D2L for instructional and learning opportunities, submitting your assignments, participating in online synchronous and asynchronous discussions, accessing resources, and completing quizzes/tests. Additionally, knowledge and skills in using Microsoft Word PowerPoint and Outlook Email, if you have any issues with using the various systems or software, it is your responsibility to contact support services and to notify the instructor of the problem.

Instructional Methods

This course will be delivered via synchronous and asynchronous sessions via D2L and will consist of live class sessions, pre-recorded lectures, group engagement activities, various assignments with some including experiential learning and practical application of the content areas. In addition, small lectures, discussion activities and workshops may be utilized to provide instruction during this course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

. As a student in this course, you are responsible to engage in active learning and reaching out to the instructor if there are problems or challenges that is interfering in optimal learning. Communication is key when engaged in a fully online, virtual environment.

GRADING

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
450-500 points	A
400-449 points	B
310-399 points	C
250-309 points	D
249 points or under	F

Exam I	100 points
Exam II	100 points
Exam III	100 points
Interview Paper	100 points
Weekly Discussions	<u>100 points</u>
	500 points total

Social work majors must earn a grade of “C” or higher in all social work classes.

Achievement of course learning objectives will be accomplished via reading chapters, reviewing Power Points (PPTs), Online discussions, interview paper, and examinations. Students are encouraged to use articles from newspapers, magazines, etc. for discussions.

SPECIFIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES

1. **EXAMINATIONS:**
 - A. Exams I, II & III **(100 points each)**
 - B. No Comprehensive Final. Make-up exams will only be given at my office.
2. **WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS** - Students will be expected to read assignments and go to Discussion section on D2L to comment on assigned topics. Students should be prepared to discuss the content and share their knowledge, opinions, of what they have learned for the week.
3. **INTERVIEW PAPER - (100 points) write a 4 to 5 page paper** on an interview with someone over the age of 65. The individual's ethnic or religious affiliation should be different from yours but if not then use who you can find. Create and ask 5 questions. (Example -- What would you like to tell me about being over the age of 65? What has changed as you aged past 60?). Paper will be due August 7..

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Instructor will respond to email queries within 2 business days.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

Engagement Policy

Final Evaluation and Grade Depends on both Classroom attendance and Participation

Inadequate participation or lack of required time commitment in each class significantly affects students' grades. No matter the course venue, students must engage in a comparable amount of time. Expectations of both Face-to-Face classes and those with Online components include time spent reading and studying course material.

To earn a level of competency within a specific course, students must demonstrate both mastery of content and active engagement.

Mastery of content areas is evidenced by successful completion of course assignments such as written papers, group project deliverables, tests/quizzes and other tangible products designed by instructors to evaluate knowledge and skills.

Additionally, the Social Work Profession is built upon human interactions and building human relationships – which is defined as engagement. Engagement is defined as meaningful involvement in interactions with instructor, peers, outside stakeholders as appropriate (such as contacting a social worker to interview for a required assignment). Within the classroom setting, whether virtual or F2F, students must actively participate in 80% of engagement activities as outlined by individual instructors. These activities can include participation in a live, synchronous virtual classes, attending a Face to Face course when appropriate, interacting with peers in posted discussions and collaborating in group interactive projects.

Students must meet standards for content mastery on tangible assignments and meet the threshold of active engagement 80% of the time during a semester.

Instructors are experts in each course content area and set the standards for students to meet for successful completion of the course.

Student Conduct

Students preparing to become professional social workers must adhere to the *University Code of Conduct*, *Department Code of Conduct* and *National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Code of Ethics*.

University Code of Conduct located in the *Student Guide Book* at

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf> (pp 34- 66). On the University Website under Campus Life Documents

To become aware of University policies related to student academic and behavioral expectations for students refer to the Guidebook.

Department Code of Conduct

"Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/lab/internship practicum or to block access to online courses and may refer offenses to the [Academic and Professional Issues Committee (API)] or to the Department Head. More serious offences by be referred to the University Police Department and/or the Judicial Affairs Office for disciplinary action" (Student Guidebook p 35)

Social Work students conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner.

Closely linked with professional recognition is the social worker's compliance with the profession's ethical standards. It is imperative for professional social workers to be competent and ethical in practice if the profession is to maintain the public trust. It is essential that each social work student gain a thorough understanding of the ethical principles that guide practice and actively demonstrate in behavior, both in and out of the classroom. Student conduct is to reflect the tenets of *NASW Code of Ethics*

(located at <https://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>) on the NASW website:
<https://www.socialworkers.org>

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week/ Date	Assignment	Activity
Week 1 - 6/5	<u>Introduction</u> Reading Robnett & Chop: Intro CLASS DISCUSSION # 1	A. Download Syllabus B. Reading chapters of text & viewing video PowerPoints (Ppt), C. Discussions and 1 written paper
Week 2 - 6/12	<u>Age Matters: Profiles of an Aging Society</u> Reading Robnett & Chop: Chapter 1, CLASS DISCUSSION # 2	Review video PPtCh1.mp4 and PPtCh1.ppt
Week 3 - 6/19	<u>Social Gerontology</u> Reading Robnett & Chop: Chapter 2 CLASS DISCUSSION #3:	Review video PPtCh2.mp4 and PPtCh2.ppt Exercises #1: Several Myths about Aging
Week 4 - 6/26	<u>Aging in Place and the Continuum of Care</u> Reading Robnett & Chop, Chapter 3 (Old Ch 10) CLASS DISCUSSION#4	Review video PPtCh3.mp4 and PPtCh3.ppt EXAM I
Week 5 - 7/03	<u>Physiology and Pathology of Aging</u> Reading Robnett & Chop, Ch. 7 (Old Ch 3) CLASS DISCUSSION #5	Review video PPtCh7.mp4 and PPtCh7.ppt BEGIN ASSIGNMENT INTERVIEW PAPER
Week 6 - 7/10	<u>Cognitive and Psychological Changes Associated with Aging</u> Reading Robnett & Chop, Ch. 8 (Old Ch 4) CLASS DISCUSSION #6	Review video PPtCh8.mp4 and PPtCh8.ppt
Week 7 - 7/17	<u>Functional Performance in Later Life</u> Reading Robnett & Chop, Ch. 9 (Old Ch 5) CLASS DISCUSSION#7	Review video PPtCh9.mp4 and PPtCh9.ppt EXAM II
Week 8 - 7/24	<u>Drugs and Older Adults</u> Reading Robnett & Chop, Ch. 10 CLASS DISCUSSION#8	Review video PPtCh10.mp4 and PPtCh10.ppt
Week 9 - 7/31	<u>Sexuality and Ageing</u> Reading Robnett & Chop, Chapter 13 CLASS DISCUSSION#8	Review video PPtCh13.mp4 and PPtCh13.ppt EXAM III
Week 10 - 8/7	<u>Loss, Grief, Death, and Dying</u> Reading Robnett & Chop, Chapter 4 CLASS DISCUSSION#10:	Review PowerPoint PPtCh4.ppt Assignment Interview Paper Due August 7th