



**PSY 598 01W Psychology of Gerontology**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025; Online – Web-Based**  
**1/13/2025 through 05/09/2025**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Katherine Pang, Licensed Psychologist, MSc Clinical Psychopharmacology

**Office Location:** Virtual

**Office Hours:** Monday 8:00-9:00AM CST or by appointment

**University Email Address:** katherine.pang@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** 24 hours, with the exception of weekends and holidays, in which case communication will occur the next day the university is open. Dr. Pang responds rapidly, if you have not heard back in a few hours, feel free to send another email.

**IMPORTANT COURSE FORMAT:**

Your course is delivered to you fully online, using the D2L instructional system that is available to you through Texas A&M University-Commerce. There are no on-campus meetings of this class. Content delivery will be completely online and asynchronous. You will be expected to work through course modules that will be posted on D2L. If you have problems accessing the system, immediately contact the system administrator through the help screens provided. The content in this course builds on itself; therefore, it is critical that you work through the course in a sequential way and stay current on deadlines.

All of the course assignments are in D2L with any supplemental course materials. The required textbooks are your primary source of information.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Required Textbooks:**

Erin L. Woodhead and Brian P. Yochim, Editors. (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2024) *Psychology of Aging: A Biopsychosocial Perspective*. Springer Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-0826166166

\*\*\*Additional required readings will be provided on Desire2Learn

Other resources. Texas A&M University—Commerce's Gee Library provides access to thousands of online journals. Of particular interest to this class are resources found in the ERIC

and PsychInfo databases. You may access these resources on campus or from home by using your CWID and password at <http://www.tamuc.edu/library>

### ***Course Description:***

Description from the Graduate Course Catalog: “This course will cover topics in gerontology including physical and mental changes in older adults, transitions such as retirement, mental health issues for the older adult, and health issues. The course will provide needed information to help the older adult adjust to changes in life. The course will focus on positive sides of aging which are often neglected.”

### ***Student Learning Outcomes:***

The student will demonstrate an understanding of:

- the importance of the psychology of aging
- mental health and aging
- cultural differences in aging
- current mental health concerns in aging

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed:**

Students will the ability to use word processing programs to complete course successfully.

### **Instructional Methods:**

A variety of teaching strategies will be used in this class, including lecture, discussion, and review of media in various formats. For students to benefit from these teaching strategies, it is critical that they keep pace with readings assigned in class. Additionally, students will take part in role-plays demonstrating the application of cognitive-behavioral interventions. Students will note that some of the material presented in class will be consistent with their readings in their text. Other information will not be found in the text but provided from resources used by the instructor.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course:**

To be successful in this course, log into the course on D2L regularly and follow the course modules. Other ways to be successful in this course include: (a) getting the contact information of one of your classmates (in the event you missed a class or just need clarification), (b) contacting a librarian at TAMUC (you can do this over the phone), and (c) e-mailing me with any questions.

## **GRADING:**

The instructor reserves the right to make subjective judgments about the quality of student participation and products. In other words, quantity does not equate to quality nor does effort equate to quality. Moreover, a grade of A will be reserved for only the highest achieving students. If you need to receive an A in this course, I suggest you work hard to submit stellar products. Please do not wait until the semester is over to discuss grades. In both undergraduate and graduate school, grades are earned according to individual student performance on described activities. Effort is important, but the outcome of your effort is the product on which grades are based.

Final grades are assigned as follows using a weighted percentage points earned scale:

### **GRADING AND ASSESSMENTS**

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

#### ***Short Papers (There are 5 individual short papers for a total of 50%, 10% each)***

On the assigned weeks, each student will be responsible for a short paper on a topic selected by the student related to the week's material. The Short Paper must be written in accordance with the Short Paper Guidelines which will be posted in the Announcements. **Due Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 12.**

#### **Research and Application Paper (3 parts, per below for a total of 50%).**

Each student will choose a topic that they want to explore and research for the final paper due at the end of the course. The student must submit a well-defined topic statement in Week 3 (5%) of the student's grade, an annotated bibliography in Week 10 (10%) of the student's grade, and the final research and application paper is due the final week in APA format (35%) of the student's grade. The paper must be written as a comprehensive research paper citing to the literature (peer-reviewed journal articles) exploring the topic and integrating application as to how a clinician would use the research in clinical practice. The paper needs to have the following:

- Introduction
- Exploration of the Research
- Clinical Application
- Conclusion
- References

There can be sub-sections within each major section. The paper needs to be between 20-30 pages. **Due April 30<sup>th</sup> 11:59PM**

### **Topic Statement (5%)**

The topic statement should be a concise paragraph stating the specific research topic and its relevance for clinical practice. **Due Week 3: February 2 at 11:59 PM**

### **Annotated Bibliography (10%)**

The annotated bibliography needs to include at least 10 peer-reviewed journal articles, and you can use other credible academic sources, such as books, etc. The annotated bibliography needs to be written in APA format with the citation followed by a paragraph or two summarizing the relevance of the source to the selected topic. **Due Week 10: March 23 at 11:59PM**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

1. Professionalism: It is expected that you demonstrate professionalism. For the purposes of this course, professionalism will be exhibited by the student: (a) completing all assigned readings, (b) submitting assignments by the deadline, and (c) adhering to the university student code of conduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating).

2. Writing Assignments: Prepare all written assignments according to the APA Publications Manual (7th ed.), as appropriate. You can access information regarding basic APA style at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> or the Learning Center located on the main floor of the library.

a. **\*\*\*ALL WRITTEN WORK WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN TO CHECK FOR PLAGIARISM (Turnitin will provide a score of the percentage of the paper that has been directly lifted from other sources). SCORES OF 30% OR MORE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO THE STUDENT FOR REVISIONS. AFTER SECOND SUBMISSION, IF THE SCORE REMAINS 30% OR MORE, THE PAPER WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A ZERO.** The BEST way to avoid any potential confusion is to get very good at stating things in multiple ways--but most importantly, in a way that is different than the original source(s). Papers in this class will likely not require direct quotes. We will discuss when it is appropriate to use direct quotes in a paper (and it isn't very often).

b. I STRONGLY encourage you take advantage of the student resources TAMUC offers you. I will reward students with bonus points if you can provide documentation that you have utilized the Writing Center to help you improve the quality of your written work. Here is a link to the Online Writing Lab:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/onlineWritingLab.aspx>

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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](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](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](mailto: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 East Texas A&M University campus open computer lab, etc.

### 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>

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

### 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 can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

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>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University 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 student academic dishonesty policy  
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:  
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:  
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

### **East Texas A&M University Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

### **Artificial Intelligence**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

## 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 Services

Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

**Phone (903) 886-5930**

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

Website: <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

## Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



## East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**CLASS SCHEDULE – SEE NEXT PAGE**

Week	Topic	Read	Assignment
Week 1 (01/13 – 01/19)	Introduction to the Psychology of Aging	Review the Course Syllabus Carefully <b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 1</b>	
Week 2 (01/20-01/26)	Biological Theories of Aging	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 2</b>	<b>Short Paper 1 Due 1/26 at 11:59PM</b>
Week 3 (01/27-02/02)	The Aging Body and Age-Related Health Conditions	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 3</b>	<b>Topic Statement Due 02/02 at 11:59PM</b>
Week 4 (02/03-02/09)	Changes to the Brain	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 4</b>	<b>Short Paper 2 Due 02/09 at 11:59PM</b>
Week 5 (02/10-02/16)	Personality and Emotional Development	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 5</b>	
Week 6 (02/17-02/23)	Mental Health and Aging	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 6</b>	<b>Short Paper 3 Due 02/23 at 11:59PM</b>
Week 7 (02/24-03/02)	Cognition and Aging	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 7</b>	
Week 8 (03/03-03/09)	Cognitive Reserve and Cognitive Interventions	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 8</b>	<b>Short Paper 4 Due 03/09 at 11:59PM</b>
Week 9 – <b>Spring Break (03/10-03/16)</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>		
Week 10 (03/17-03/23)	Neurocognitive Disorders in Late Life	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 9</b>	<b>Annotated Bibliography Due 03/23 at 11:59PM</b>
Week 11 (03/24-03/30)	Relationships, Families and Aging	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 10</b>	
Week 12 (03/31-04/06)	Aging, Work, and Retirement	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 11</b>	<b>Short Paper 5 Due 04/06 at 11:59PM</b>
Week 13 (04/07-04/13)	Death and Dying	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 12</b>	
Week 14 (04/14-04/20)	Cultural Differences in Aging	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 13</b>	
Week 15 (04/21-04/27)	Aging and the Legal System	<b>Read: Woodhead and Yochim Chapter 14</b>	
Week 16 (04/28-05/02)	The Finish Line		<b>Final Paper Due April 30 11:59PM</b>