



**SWK 597: Gerontology**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Summer I - 2025**  
**Web-base**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: **Benjamin May, LCSW, PhD**  
Office Location: **Henderson Rm 323A**  
Office Hours: **Monday: 10am-2pm**  
Office Phone: **903-886-5512**  
Office Fax: **N/A**  
University Email Address: **Benjamin.may@tamuc.edu**  
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email, Telephone, and Zoom**  
Communication Response Time: **24 hours except weekends Within 2 business days**

**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.

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

**Software Required:**

Adobe PDF

D2L

Microsoft Office 365

Access FREE at:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/facultystaffservices/academictechnology/documents/Office-365-Students.pdf>

**Optional Texts and/or Materials:**

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

**Course Description**

Effective social work practice requires a knowledge and understanding of multi-cultural groups. The course will focus on working with the aging. Students will move beyond comparative thinking as it relates to diversity to inclusive thinking, which requires an examination of those institutional factors that contribute to and maintain social oppression, social injustice, and social inequality in aging. A socio-historical perspective will be presented in order to understand present-day challenges facing aging. Strategies employed to combat social inequality will be examined from a macro-micro focus. 3 credit hours.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES****STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The 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. Listed below are the competencies and associated knowledge, skills, values and cognitive and affective processes that comprise the expected outcomes for this course.

	Activity/Assessment	Dimension
<b>Competency 1:</b>		

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

In this course, you will utilize the Learning Management Systems (LMS) D2L for instructional and learning opportunities, submitting assignments, participating in online synchronous and asynchronous discussions, accessing resources, and completing quizzes/tests. Additionally, you will need the knowledge and skills to use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook Email. If you have any issues with using the various systems or software, you must contact support services and notify the Instructor of the technical issue.

### **Instructional Methods**

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

### **Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course**

As a student in this course, you are responsible for engaging in active learning and reaching out to the Instructor if problems or challenges interfere with optimal learning. Communication is vital when engaged in a fully online, virtual environment.

Expectations for success include:

1. Always demonstrate professional behavior, including respect for the Instructor and peers; being open to feedback and guidance throughout this class and the program.
2. Adhered to the School of Social Work and University student code of conduct and NASW Code of Ethics.
3. Begin reading the assigned text and supplemental readings as soon as possible, focusing on completing all readings prior to engagement with the Instructor or peers.
4. Prepare to engage in live class sessions, discussions, and other activities so you can be a contributor as well as a receiver of knowledge and skills.
5. Actively participate in engagement activities, including live virtual class sessions, online discussions, and interactive learning opportunities -as this is vital for learning and success in both this course and the program.
6. Work ahead when possible. Completing assignments ahead of the due date so you are prepared to submit on the due date.
7. Sign in to the D2L course shell multiple times weekly to access updated announcements or posted resources.
8. Check your university email daily. This is the university, department, and Instructor's official method of communication.
9. Be open and focused on the "process" and not the "product," as earning this degree requires time, effort, work, growth in knowledge, skills, and abilities, along with personal and professional attributes.

## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

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

Assessments	Value
Exam I	100 pts.
Exam II	100 pts.
Exam III	100 pts.
Interview Paper	100 pts.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400 pts.</b>

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 PowerPoints (PPTs), Online discussions, interview papers, and examinations. Students are encouraged to use articles from newspapers, magazines, etc. for discussions.

### Please see calendar

Make-up exams will only be given at my office.

## Assessments

**1. EXAMINATIONS (3 @ 100 pts. each):**

Take 3 exams throughout the semester.  
No Comprehensive Final.

**2. INTERVIEW PAPER (100 pts.):**

**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 5. **See Rubric in Appendix A.**

3. **WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS (encouraged but no points):**

Students will be encouraged to read assignments and go to the Discussion section on D2L to comment on assigned topics. Students should be prepared to discuss the content and share their knowledge and opinions of what they have learned for the week.

## 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 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**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor via email. The Instructor will respond to email queries within two 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 require the Instructor to modify it during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Ethical Behavior**

The School of Social Work expects all students to conduct themselves in an ethical, professional manner in the classroom and field settings consistent with the [NASW Code of Ethics](#).

#### **University Code of Conduct**

East Texas A&M University has established standards of conduct to create and foster an environment that facilitates student learning and development. Students and university student groups are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others and is consistent with the educational goals and mission of the university. This Code of Student Conduct ("Code") focuses on personal responsibility and accountability for students' actions and the impact those actions may have on the greater community. To access student academic and behavioral expectations for students refer to the [Student Guidebook](#).

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 (or copy/paste the following URL in your web browser:

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

[If a student believes the final grade is unfairly impacted by attendance requirements, an appeal can be made. This appeal process is explained in "Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation" - Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05.](#)

## **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:

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

## **University Rules on Research**

Students involved in conducting research and/or scholarly activities at East Texas A&M University must also adhere to standards set forth in [University Procedure 15.99.03.R1 Ethics in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work](#).

### **AI use in the course**

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

Any use of such software must be documented. Undocumented use constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow the use of such software entirely 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.

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

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

## **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**

East Texas A&M University  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148

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

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

## **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 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 campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connections 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)

## **School of Social Work & Council on Social Work Education-Specific Policies**

### **Course Engagement**

*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 the Instructor, peers, and 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 may include but are not limited to, participation in 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 of the time set during a semester by the Instructor.

Instructors are experts in each course content area and set the standards for students to meet to successfully complete the course.

### **Student Conduct**

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

### **Department Code of Conduct**

The Academic and Professional Issues Committee (API) hearing is the formal path of due process for a student in regard to the concern being expressed. A student will be referred to the School of Social Work's API by faculty, field instructors, or faculty field liaisons when a concern arises regarding academic and student conduct and/or professional preparation. When “a student who fails to meet the professional expectation of the field for which he/she is preparing may be suspended from further study in that program by the department administering that program” as demonstrated through ethical and/or legal violations; aberrant disregard for School of Social Work Code of Conduct or other concerns as determined by the [Academic and Professional Issues Committee](#).

Graduate Students have the right to appeal to the Graduate Dean according to [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.39](#).

Undergraduate Students have the right to appeal to the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services according to [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.41](#)

## Appendix A

### Rubric:

<b>Exams</b>	<b>Answer questions</b>	<b>Each Exam 100 points</b>
<b>Complete open book exam questions</b>	<b>10 questions</b>	

<b>Interview Paper</b>	<b>Points</b>	
<b>APA format</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>5 questions</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>40</b>	

## COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE

Week/ Date	Assignment	Activity
Week 1 - 6/2	<b><u>Introduction</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Robnett & Chop: Intro <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #1</b>	Download Syllabus Reading text & viewing video, PowerPoints (PPT), Discussions and 1 written paper
Week 2 - 6/09	<b><u>Age Matters: Profiles of an Aging Society</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Ch 1; Text <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #2</b>	<b>Review video PPtCh1.mp4 and PPtCh1.ppt</b>
Week 3 - 6/16	<b><u>Social Gerontology</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Ch 2; Text <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #3:</b>	<b>Review video PPtCh2.mp4 and PPtCh2.ppt</b> Exercises #1: Several Myths about Aging
Week 4 - 6/23	<b><u>Aging in Place and the Continuum of Care</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Ch 3; Text (Old Ch 10) <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #4</b>	<b>Review video PPtCh3.mp4 and PPtCh3.ppt</b> <b>EXAM I</b>
Week 5 - 6/30	<b><u>Physiology and Pathology of Aging</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Ch. 7; Text (Old Ch 3) <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #5</b>	<b>Review video PPtCh7.mp4 and PPtCh7.ppt</b> BEGIN ASSIGNMENT INTERVIEW PAPER
Week 6 - 7/07	<b><u>Cognitive and Psychological Changes Associated with Aging</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Ch. 8; Text (Old Ch 4) <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #6</b>	<b>Review video PPtCh8.mp4 and PPtCh8.ppt</b>
Week 7 - 7/14	<b><u>Functional Performance in Later Life</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Ch. 9; Text (Old Ch 5) <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #7</b>	<b>Review video PPtCh9.mp4 and PPtCh9.ppt</b> <b>EXAM II</b>
Week 8 - 7/21	<b><u>Drugs and Older Adults</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Ch. 10; Text <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #8</b>	<b>Review video PPtCh10.mp4 and PPtCh10.ppt</b>
Week 9 - 7/28	<b><u>Sexuality and Ageing</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Ch 13; Text <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #8</b>	<b>Review video PPtCh13.mp4 and PPtCh13.ppt</b> <b>EXAM III</b>
Week 10 - 8/04	<b><u>Loss, Grief, Death, and Dying</u></b> <b>Reading</b> Ch 4; Text <b>CLASS DISCUSSION #10:</b>	<b>Review PowerPoint PPtCh4.ppt</b> <b>Assignment Interview Paper Due August 5<sup>th</sup></b>