



SWK 597: Gerontology
COURSE SYLLABUS
Summer I - 2025

Web-base

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Benjamin May, LCSW, PhD
Office Location: Henderson Rm 307
Office Hours: Monday: 10am-2pm
Office Phone: personal phone
Office Fax:
University Email Address: Benjamin.may@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Comm.: Email, Telephone, and Zoom

Communication Response Time: 24 hours except weekends Within 2 business days

COURSE INFORMATION

MATERIALS – TEXTBOOKS, READINGS, SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

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**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

MINIMAL TECHNICAL SKILLS NEEDED

Course Description

Effective social work practice requires a knowledge and understanding of multi-cultural groups. The course will focus on working with 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, 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 differences will be examined from a macro-micro focus. 3 credit hours

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 OR 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.

GRADING

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

Exam 1	100 pts
Exam 2	100 pts
Exam 3	100 pts
Interview Paper	100 pts
Total	400 pts

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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@etamu.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>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID AND PASSWORD

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@etamu.edu.

TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ISSUES

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

MINIMAL TECHNICAL SKILLS NEEDED

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS) – D2L

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 the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

INTERACTION WITH INSTRUCTOR STATEMENT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EMAILS WITH INSTRUCTOR:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
 - Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
 - Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
 - Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)
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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU ATTENDANCE

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

USE OF 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).

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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 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@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability 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 ETAMU 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.

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.

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EAST TEXAS A&M SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH – COUNSELING SERVICES

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

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 or go to https://studentsupport.telushealth.com/us/about#download_app to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

DEPARTMENT AND ACCREDITING AGENCY STATEMENT:

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Appendix A Rubric:

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Exams	Answer questions	Each Exam 100 points
Complete open book exam questions	10 questions	

Interview Paper	Points	
APA format	30	
5 questions	30	
Conclusion	40	

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Course Outline/Calendar

Week/ Date	Assignment	Activity
Week 1 - 6/2	<u>Introduction</u> Reading Robnett & Chop: Intro CLASS DISCUSSION #1	Download Syllabus Reading text & viewing video, PowerPoints (PPT), Discussions and 1 written paper
Week 2 - 6/09	<u>Age Matters: Profiles of an Aging Society</u> Reading Ch 1; Text CLASS DISCUSSION #2	Review video PPTCh1.mp4 and PPTCh1.ppt
Week 3 - 6/16	<u>Social Gerontology</u> Reading Ch 2; Text CLASS DISCUSSION #3:	Review video PPTCh2.mp4 and PPTCh2.ppt Exercises #1: Several Myths about Aging
Week 4 - 6/23	<u>Aging in Place and the Continuum of Care</u> Reading Ch 3; Text (Old Ch 10) CLASS DISCUSSION #4	Review video PPTCh3.mp4 and PPTCh3.ppt EXAM I
Week 5 - 6/30	<u>Physiology and Pathology of Aging</u> Reading Ch. 7; Text (Old Ch 3) CLASS DISCUSSION #5	Review video PPTCh7.mp4 and PPTCh7.ppt BEGIN ASSIGNMENT INTERVIEW PAPER
Week 6 - 7/07	<u>Cognitive and Psychological Changes Associated with Aging</u> Reading Ch. 8; Text (Old Ch 4) CLASS DISCUSSION #6	Review video PPTCh8.mp4 and PPTCh8.ppt
Week 7 - 7/14	<u>Functional Performance in Later Life</u> Reading Ch. 9; Text (Old Ch 5) CLASS DISCUSSION #7	Review video PPTCh9.mp4 and PPTCh9.ppt EXAM II
Week 8 - 7/21	<u>Drugs and Older Adults</u> Reading Ch. 10; Text CLASS DISCUSSION #8	Review video PPTCh10.mp4 and PPTCh10.ppt
Week 9 - 7/28	<u>Sexuality and Ageing</u> Reading Ch 13; Text CLASS DISCUSSION #8	Review video PPTCh13.mp4 and PPTCh13.ppt EXAM III
Week 10 - 8/04	<u>Loss, Grief, Death, and Dying</u> Reading Ch 4; Text CLASS DISCUSSION #10:	Review PowerPoint PPTCh4.ppt Assignment Interview Paper Due August 4th

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