

**Syllabus for  
Aging and Adulthood  
Fall 2007**

PSYC 3311 - 001

TR 8am – 9:40am

100 Life Sciences Bldg.

Instructor:	Heidi H. Ewen, Ph.D.
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Office hours:	TR 10am – 11:30am, by appointment, or when office door is open

**Description of Course Content:**

This course focuses on the developmental changes in major psychological processes and abilities are related to health, sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and lifestyle. Emphasis is on models of psychobiological changes with age and current empirical knowledge having implications for the preservation of intellectual function, mental health, and physical condition.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Identify myths and stereotypes of aging and describe how these shape attitudes and policy toward older adults.
2. Describe demographic changes occurring in the U.S. and other countries, and explain the implications for society.
3. Compare theoretical perspectives that explain the biological, psychological, and social aspects of aging.
4. Describe normal age-related changes in the physiological, psychological, sexual, and social domains.
5. Recognize sources of diversity in the aging experience, and describe the impact of gender, race, culture, and socioeconomic status on older people.
6. Identify current issues affecting older adults, and describe existing policies and programs that address these.

**Prerequisite / Requirements:** PSYC 1315

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

Cavanaugh, John C. and Blanchard-Fields, F. *Adult Development and Aging* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Thomson Publishers.

Kleiner, Gregg (1996). *Where River Turns to Sky*. Avon Books.

Ablom, Mitch. *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Doubleday Books.

Any other supplemental readings will be provided.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:**

- (1) Examinations – There will be four multiple choice exams. Three of the four exams are counted toward the final grade. Each exam will have 50 questions worth 2 points per question (100 points per exam). The final grade will be determined using the scores from the three highest exam scores. You may take all four exams and drop the lowest score or you may take three exams and elect not to take the final. You must take at least three exams to avoid a failing grade on one exam.
- (2) Each student is required to turn in two five to ten-page papers on the supplemental book readings for the course. Writing assignments will be typed, double spaced in 12 point font with 1 inch margins all around. A cover page with your name, the title of the paper, the date, course name and section is preferred. Appropriate citations should be used for any information/quotes you use from sources and must be in APA format. Papers must be free of significant spelling and grammatical errors. More specific information on the structure and content of the papers will be disseminated in class.

**Grading Policy:**

Grades are based on a percentage score and not a curve. If you are taking the course Pass/Fail, you must have at least 70% to Pass. All coursework must be completed by the last day of class for credit.

Exam I	100	100%-90%	A
Exam II	100	89%-80%	B
Exam III	100	79%-70%	C
Papers	150	69%-60%	D
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>24</u>	59%-less	F
Total	474		

**Attendance/Drop Policy:** Regular attendance is expected. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. A total of 24 points (2 points per class) may be earned if you attend class on each scheduled day. Given that we meet 15 times during the semester, this allows you to miss three classes without penalty. Students will be asked to sign an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class period. A student may drop a course and receive a grade of "W" if done on or before November 2, 2007. Students must receive official approval from the Professor to receive an "incomplete" grade.

**Americans With Disabilities Act:**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability). Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:**

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

*"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)*

**Student Support Services Available:**

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should

contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

**Librarian to Contact:** Helen Hough is the Psychology Librarian. She can be reached at (817) 272-7429, and by email at [hough@uta.edu](mailto:hough@uta.edu). You will find useful research information for psychology at <http://www.uta.edu/library/research/rt-psyc.html>.

**E-Culture Policy:**

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at [www.uta.edu/email](http://www.uta.edu/email). New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

**Make-up Exam Policy:** There will be no make-ups exams since one of the four exam scores will not be considered in the final grade.

## Tentative Course Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter/Readings</b>
8/28	Introduction to the course, Overview of aging and adulthood.	1
8/30	Physical Ability and Changes in Aging	2
9/4	Longevity, Health, and Functioning	3
9/6	Longevity, Health, and Functioning	3
9/11	Mental Health and Aging	4
9/13	Person-Environment Interactions	5
9/18	Person-Environment Interactions	5
9/20	Catch-Up Day / Review for Exam	
<b>9/25</b>	<b>Exam I (Chapters 1-5)</b>	
9/27	Review Exam and Begin Book Discussions	Ablom / Kleiner
10/2	Attention and Perceptual Processing	6
10/4	Memory and Aging	7
10/9	Intelligence	8
10/11	Social Cognition	9
10/16	Social Cognition / Catch-up	
<b>10/18</b>	<b>Exam II (Chapters 6-9)</b>	
<b>10/23</b>	Review Exam, <b>First Book Review Due</b>	Ablom / Kleiner
10/25	Personality and Aging	10
10/30	Work, Leisure, and Retirement	12
11/1	Work, Leisure, and Retirement	12
11/6	Relationships	11
11/8	Relationships	11
11/13	Catch Up and Review	
<b>11/15</b>	<b>Exam III (Chapters 10-12)</b>	
<b>11/20</b>	<b>Second Book Review Due *No Class*</b>	Ablom / Kleiner
11/27	Sexuality and Aging	TBA
11/29	Sexuality and Aging	TBA
12/4	Death, Dying, and Bereavement	13
12/6	Death, Dying, and Bereavement / Review	13
<b>12/12</b>	<b>Final Exam – 8am – 10:30am</b>	