

**Syllabus for
Aging and Adulthood
Spring 2007**

PSYC 3311 - 001

TuTh 2pm – 3:20pm

101 Life Sciences Bldg.

Instructor:	Timothy Odegard, Ph.D.
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Office hours:	TR 11am – 12:00 pm and by appointment
Course Website:	webct.uta.edu

Prerequisite / Requirements: PSYC 1315

Required Textbook and Other Course Materials:

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

Any other supplemental readings will be provided.

Description of Course Content:

This course focuses on the relationship between developmental changes and health, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and lifestyle. Emphasis is placed on the implications of biological, psychological and social changes that occur with age and the preservation of intellectual function, mental health, and physical well being.

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, biological, 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.

Your knowledge of course material will be evaluated in three different ways:

1. Your ability to clearly communicate the complex issues inherent to aging when completing class participation assignments
2. Your ability to discuss the topics inherent to aging during class discussions
3. Your ability to accurately answer test questions about aging.

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. Make-up exams will only be given to those students who miss a test for a **University approved absence**.

Three (3) unit exams will be given during this course. Each exam will be worth 100 points. A comprehensive final exam will be given during the week of final exams.

- (2) Class Participation Assignments – Throughout the semester assignments will be given in class. These assignments will be used to foster class participation and group discussion on various topics covered in the course. In some instances, you will be assigned short research articles to review. In other instances, you might be assigned a short review article of a topic to summarize. Given that these assignments are meant to foster class discussion and a deeper understanding of topics covered in the course, students must be in attendance in order to receive credit for completing these assignments.

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
Class Participation Assignments	50	69%-60%	D
		59%-less	F
<hr/> Total	350		

Attendance/Drop Policy: Regular attendance is expected. A student may drop a course and receive a grade of "W" if done on or before **March 28, 2008**. 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. 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. 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. 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: Make-up exams will only be given to those students who miss a test for a **University approved absence**.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Chapter/Readings
01/15	Introduction to the course	
01/17	Perspectives on Aging	1
01/22	Research Methods	1
01/24	Physical Ability and Changes in Aging	2
01/29	Longevity, Health, and Functioning	3
01/31	Mental Health and Aging	4
02/05	Person-Environment Interactions	5
02/07	Catch-Up Day / Review for Exam	
02/12	Exam I (Chapters 1-5)	
02/14	Review Exam	
02/19	Attention and Perceptual Processing	6
02/21	Memory and Aging	7
02/26	Memory and Aging	7
02/28	Intelligence	8
03/04	Social Cognition	9
03/06	Social Cognition	9
03/11	Catch-Up Day / Review for Exam	
03/13	Exam II (Chapters 6-9)	
03/25	Review Exam	
03/27	Personality and Aging	10
04/01	Relationships	11
04/03	Relationships	11
04/08	Work, Leisure, and Retirement	12
04/10	Work, Leisure, and Retirement	12
04/15	Death, Dying, and Bereavement	13
04/17	Death, Dying, and Bereavement	13
04/22	Catch Up and Review	
04/24	Exam III (Chapters 10-13)	
04/29	Review Exam	
05/01	Review for Comprehensive Final Exam	
05/06	Comprehensive Final Exam (2pm – 4:30pm)	